7

STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
(2004-05)

(FOURTEENTH LOK SABHA)

SEVENTH REPORT
ON

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS
(2005-06)

MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

April, 2005/Chaitra, 1927 (Saka)

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(2005-06)

Presented to Lok Sabha on 21.04.2005

Laid in Rajya Sabha on 21.04.2005

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

April 2005, Chaitra, 1927 (Saka)

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COMPOSITION OF STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (2004-2005)

Smt. Sumitra Mahajan -CHAIRPERSON

MEMBERS

LOK SABHA

2. Shri M. Appadurai
3. Shri Ashok Argal
4. Smt. Susmita Bauri
5. Shri Mahaveer Bhagora
6. Shri Eknath M. Gaikwad
7. Shri Sanat Kumar Mandal
8. Shri Kailash Meghwal
9. Shri Rupchand Murmu
10. Shri Jual Oram
11. Shri Rameshwar Oraon
12. Shri Asaduddin Owaisi
13. Shri T. Madhusudan Reddy
14. Shri Daroga Prasad Saroj
15. Dr. R. Senthil
16. Shri Mohd. Shahid
17. Smt. Pratibha Singh
18. Shri Lalit Mohan Suklabaidya
19. Smt. Krishna Tirath
20. Smt. Usha Verma
21. Shri K. Yerrannaidu

RAJYA SABHA

22. Smt. Jamana Devi Barupal
23. Shri Silvius Condpan
24. Shri R.S. Gavai
25. Dr. Narayan Singh Manaklao
26. Shri Abdul Wahab Peevee
27. Shri Dharam Pal Sabharwal
28. Shri Ram Narayan Sahu
29. Smt. Savita Sharda
30. Shri Tarlochan Singh
31. Shri Veer Singh

SECRETARIAT

1.	Shri P.D.T. Achary	-	Secretary
2.	Dr. (Smt.) P.K. Sandhu	-	Joint Secretary
3.	Shri R.K. Saxena	-	Deputy Secretary
4.	Shri Bhupesh Kumar	-	Under Secretary
5.	Shri Vanlalruata	-	Committee Officer

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (2004-05) having been authorised by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this Seventh Report, of the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment on Demands for Grants, 2005-2006.

2. The Committee considered the Demands for Grants pertaining to the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment for the current year i.e. 2005-2006 which were laid on the Table of the House on March 24, 2005. Thereafter, the Committee took evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment on March 31, 2005. The Committee considered and finalized the Report at their sitting held on April , 2005.

3. The Committee wish to express their thanks to the officers of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment for placing before them the detailed written notes on the subject and furnishing the information the Committee desired in connection with the examination of the Demands for Grants and tendering evidence before the Committee.

4. For facility of reference and convenience, the observations and recommendations of the Committee have been printed in thick type in the body of the Report and have also been reproduced in a consolidated form in Appendix I to the Report.

NEW DELHI;
April 19, 2005
Chaitra 29,1927 (Saka)

SUMITRA MAHAJAN
Chairperson
Standing Committee
on Social Justice and
Empowerment

CHAPTER-I

INTRODUCTORY

1.1 The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment have informed the Committee that the mandate of the Ministry is to work towards the mainstreaming of the disadvantaged and marginalized sections of the society such as, Scheduled Castes, Other Backward Classes, Minorities, aged persons, persons with disabilities, victims of substance abuse and children in need of care and protection. A large section of population have been and sometimes to be socially, educationally and economically backward. The historical social realty confirms that they need justice, - Justice in a holistic perspective of educational development, economic advancement and social empowerment. Persons to this group comprise of Scheduled Castes, Other Backward Classes and Minorities. The other disadvantaged discriminated groups are the Disabled, Children in Need Care of Protection, Aged Persons, Drug addicts, etc. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is committed towards development and welfare of the targeted groups as specified above. The objective of the Ministry is to empower the persons belonging to these groups who have been either historically on the fringes of the society or are in danger of being marginalized due to various socio-economic forces as the country passes through transition from an agrarian to an industrial economy.

1.2 The Ministry recognizes the need to strengthen the partnership between the Central Government and State Government, Central Government and Voluntary Organisations to implement the various welfare activities. The partnership with these agencies opens a channel of flow of its financial resources, which reach the persons living in the remotest areas. This also forms a capacity building relationship between provider and receiver through these agencies, ultimately benefiting the targeted group. The Ministry seeks to make meaningful intervention in the lives of persons belonging to:

- Scheduled Castes
- Other Backward Classes
- Minorities
- Disabled
- Children in Need of Care and Protection
- Aged
- Alcohol & Substance (Drug) dependents

1.3 In order to achieve the objectives stated above, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is divided into the following divisions:

1. Scheduled Castes Development
2. Disability Development
3. Social Defence
4. Backward Classes and Minorities (including matters relating to Wakf).

1.4 The Ministry gets specialized and technical inputs from 5 National Institutes and 2 apex level organisations namely:

i) National Institute of Social Defence, New Delhi
ii) National Institute for Visually Handicapped, Dehradun
iii) National Institute for Mentally Handicapped, Secunderabad
iv) National Institute for Hearing Handicapped, Mumbai
v) National Institute for Orthopaedically Handicapped, Kolkata
vi) National Institute for Rehabilitation, Training & Research, Cuttak
vii) Deendayal Institute for Physically Handicapped, New Delhi

1.5 The activities of the following Commissions come under the purview of the Ministry:

i) National Commission for Scheduled Castes
ii) National Commission for Minorities
iii) National Commission for Backward Classes
iv) National Commission for Safai Karmacharis
v) National Commission for Denotified, Nomadic & Semi-nomadic Tribes
vi) Commission for Economically Backward Classes.

1.6 The Office of the Special Officer for Linguistic Minorities also comes under the purview of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

1.7 During 2004-05, the Ministry has also set up a new Commission namely National Commission for Economically and Socially Backward sections among Religious and Linguistic Minorities.

1.8 In order to provide for necessary statutory coverage to persons with disability, the Ministry has set up three statutory bodies:

i) Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities
ii) National Trust for the Welfare of the Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities
iii) Rehabilitation Council of India.

1.9 With a view to giving an impetus to the special needs of the weaker and vulnerable sections of society, the following five Development Finance Corporations have been set up by the Ministry under Section 25 of the Companies Act, 1956:

i) National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation
ii) National Safai Karamcharis Finance And Development Corporation

iii) National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation
iv) National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation, and
v) National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation.

1.10 The Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation has been manufacturing standard aids and appliances for distribution to the persons with disabilities with a view to increase their physical and social mobility.

1.11 In addition to the organisations under the administrative control of the Ministry, Plan and Non-Plan Schemes of the Ministry are also implemented by the Ministry with the help of State Governments, Union Territory Administrations, Non Governmental Organizations and Institutes of Local Self-Government.

1.12 The Demands for Grants 2005-2006 asked by the Ministry are given under Demand No.88. The Committee have attempted to scrutinize these demands to the extent possible within the short time available and the conclusions drawn by the Committee have been have been highlighted in the succeeding Chapters.

CHAPTER-II

GENERAL PERFORMANCE OF THE MINISTRY

2.1 The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment have furnished the following statement showing the Budget Estimates, Revised Estimates and Actual Expenditure for the previous years along with the Budget Estimates for the current year:

(Rs. in crore)

Year	BE	RE	Actual Expenditure
2002-2003	1410.00	1225.00	1191.42
2003-2004	1410.00	1250.00	1181.07
2004-2005	1492.00	1350.00	1223.81 (Till 28 March – 05)

2.2 The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has furnished the following statement showing the Budget Estimates, Revised Estimates and Expenditure incurred during the year 2004-2005 along with the Budget Estimates for the year 2005-06 under various divisions of the Ministry:

(Rs. in crore)

SN	Bureau	2004-05					2005-06
			BE	RE	Exp (upto 1.3.2005	% of Exp. to RE	BE
1	Scheduled Castes Development	Plan	965.09	887.00	700.90	79.02	1018.71
		Non Plan	8.63	8.31	7.07	85.07	8.47
		Total	**973.72**	**895.31**	**707.97**	**79.07**	**1027.18**
2	Other Backward Classes	Plan	65.30	73.30	52.72	71.92	68.96
		Non Plan	3.11	2.34	1.66	70.94	2.05
		Total	**69.41**	**75.64**	**54.38**	**71.89**	**71.01**
3	Minorities	Plan	72.29	72.29	41.00	56.72	49.60
		Non Plan	5.68	5.80	3.50	60.34	6.55
		Total	**77.97**	**78.09**	**44.50**	**56.98**	**56.15**
4	Welfare of the Disabled	Plan	224.54	174.00	132.94	76.40	223.60
		Non Plan	33.98	35.13	28.92	82.32	34.11
		Total	**258.52**	**209.13**	**161.86**	**77.39**	**257.71-**
5	Social Defence and Child Welfare	Plan	97.98	84.93	72.49	85.35	100.80
		Non	3.18	2.93	1.55	52.90	3.17
		Total	**101.16**	**87.86**	**74.04**	**84.27**	**103.97**
6	Secretariat &	Plan	1.00	1.00	0.45	45.00	2.00
	Discretionary Grant	Non Plan	10.37 0.06	10.43 0.06	9.80 0.05	93.95	11.59
		Total	**11.43**	**11.49**	**10.30**	**83.33**	**13.59**
	Lump sum allocation for NE & Sikkim	Plan	65.80	57.48	**	-	70.03
	Sub Total	**Plan**	**1492.00**	**1350.00**	**1000.50**	**74.11**	**1533.70**
		Non Plan	**65.01**	**65.00**	**52.55**	**80.84**	**66.00**
	Grand Total		**1557.01**	**1415.00**	**1053.05**	**74.42**	**1599.70**

* Expenditure has to be incurred in the respective schemes.
** Expenditure included under respective schemes.

2.3 The Ministry has stated that as per guidelines issued by the Planning Commission, the Ministry is required to formulate the Annual Plan Proposal (2005-06) with the budgetary support equivalent to 105% of the BE 2004-05. The Ministry submitted the Annual Plan proposal (2005-06) to the tune of Rs. 1671.05 crore for representing 112% of the BE 2004-05. The Ministry has been allocated Rs 1533.70 crore for the year 2005-06. The salient points mentioned by the Planning Commission are as follows:-

- Grant in aid to Maulana Azan Education Foundation should be utilized for the areas and project basis with efficient delivery system with the help of Information and Technology.
- Need for restructuring finance Development Corporations for the Weaker Sections.
- Funds ear-marked under SCA to SCP Schemes for the benefit of Scheduled Castes should be utilized on priority especially towards land development projects for economic development of the Scheduled Castes.

Proposed Annual Plan Outlay for 2005-06

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	Bureau/Scheme	Proposed Outlay 2005-06 @ of 12% increase of		
		BE	NE*	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Scheduled Castes Development	1105.17	22.55	1127.72
2.	Other Backward Classes	73.14	8.12	81.26
3.	Minorities	50.76	5.64	56.40
4.	Welfare of Persons with Disabilities	255.39	28.37	283.76
5.	Social Defence	109.72	12.19	121.91
	Grand total	**1594.18**	**76.87**	**1671.05**

Annual Outlay 2005-2006

(Rs in crore)

S. No.	Bureau/Scheme	Annual Outlay		
		BE	NE	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1	Scheduled Castes Development	1018.71	20.78	1039.49
2	Other Backward Classes	68.96	7.65	76.61
3	Minorities	49.60	5.40	55.00
4	Welfare of Persons with Disabilities	225.60	25.00	250.60
5	Social Defence	100.8	11.2	112.00
	Grand Total	**1463.67**	**70.03**	**1533.70**

2.4 During 2004-05 the BE was Rs.1492 crore which was reduced at RE stage to Rs.1350 crore. Further, the actual expenditure incurred on all the schemes of the Ministry out of this RE was Rs.1223.81 crore upto 28 March 2004. On being asked the reasons for less expenditure, the Ministry have stated:-

- The Ministry of Finance conveys the Revised Estimates on the basis of expenditure level upto 30th September every year and imposes cut on the allocation of the Ministry. However, the percentage of expenditure in the last three years upto September has been increasing from 25.92% in 2002-03, to 37.13% in 2003-04 and 41.27% in 2004-05. Reasons for low utilisation has been late receipt of complete proposals from the State Governments/UT Administrations and in particular from North Eastern Region and Sikkim. Expenditure under the head lumpsum provision always remains lower than the allocation. The proposals from them are generally received in third or fourth quarter of the financial year. In a few other schemes SFC/EFC could not be held and due to which funds could not be released. States/UTs welfare Secretaries have been impressed in the conference held in 2002-03 and 2004-05 to send the proposals to the Ministry expeditiously.

- The increase in allocation has been only Rs 41.70 crore for 2005-06. During 2005-06 Rs 30.00 crore has been proposed under Maulana Azad Education Foundation to complete its corpus to the level of Rs 100.00 crore and weed out the scheme during 10th Plan period as per decision of Zero Based Budgeting.

2.5 Two new schemes have also been proposed in 2005-06. Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship Scheme for Scheduled Castes for which an allocation of Rs. 16.03 crore has been proposed. The other new scheme is Technology Centre for Visually, Hearing and Orthopaedically Disabled persons in Collaboration with Government of Japan has been proposed for an allocation of Rs 1.00 crore.

2.6 The balance amount of Rs. 1486.67 crore would be utilized for implementation of ongoing programmes of the Ministry by intensified follow up with the State Governments for obtaining their proposals.

2.7 During evidence, the Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment explained that the overall allocation of the Ministry was Rs 1492 crore and RE was Rs. 1350 crore. The Committee enquired whether the Ministry would be able to fully utilize the allocated funds during the year 2004-05, it is stated that as a result of continuous efforts made during the year Utilisation Certificate of previous releases have been obtained from State Governments/UTs so that the funds due to them during the year can be released. It is further stated that it is expected the funds would be utilized during the year.

2.8 In a reply to a question regarding reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the private sector, the Ministry have informed the Committee that the National Common Minimum Programme(NCMP) lays down that the UPA Government is very sensitive to the issue of affirmative action, including reservations in the private sector. It will immediately initiate a national dialogue with all political parties, industry and other organisations to see how best the private sector can fulfil the aspirations of SC and ST youth.

2.9 In pursuance to the above, a Group of Ministers (GOM) has been constituted to examine the issue of affirmative action including reservation in the Private Sector for initiating a dialogue with the Industry to see how best the private sector can fulfil the aspirations of the youth belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. As per the directions of the GOM, 218 associations of industry and trade were addressed for soliciting their views on the issue. So far, only 25 Associations have responded. The GOM in its third meeting held on the 22nd March 2005 interacted with the representatives of the national level Associations of industry and trade viz: Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Associated Chamber of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) and PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The industry responded positively to affirmative action for the SCs and STs i.e. training scholarships skill development etc.

2.10 During the course of evidence, the Secretary apprised the Committee that the Planning Commission has identified Schemes like, Pre-Matric Scholarship, Coaching and Allied Scheme for SCs, OBCs and the Minorities, Hostels for SC Boys and Girls and OBC Boys and Girls, Employment of the Handicapped and the Scheme for Prevention and Control of Juvenile Social Maladjustment for transfer to the State Governments. The reasons given by the Planning Commission were that generally all these Schemes are implemented by the State Governments and the budgetary allocation for these Schemes are not very large. The Ministry discussed this matter with the Planning Commission and the Planning Commission has agreed to let all but one Scheme be retained by the Ministry. The Scheme which will be transferred is the Scheme of "Employment of the Handicapped."

2.11 In their written replies furnished to the Committee, the Ministry have stated that as the majority of the Schemes under its purview are centrally sponsored Schemes, wherein the onus of implementing the schemes lies with the State Governments. Thus, the Ministry of Social Justice is only responsible for sanctioning of funds on receipt of Utilisation Certificates. Due to this, the data on various beneficiaries is not centrally monitored nor does the Ministry maintain the success dropout rate of various Schemes.

2.12 The Committee are constrained to note that this year too the budgetary allocation of the Ministry for the year 2004-05 has been pruned at RE stage from Rs. 1492 crore to Rs 1350 crore, a cut of Rs 142/- crore, and the actual expenditure incurred during the year was to the tune of Rs 1223.81 crore. The main reason for less utilisation attributed by the Ministry is non-receipt of utilisation certificates as well as fresh proposals from the States in time. It is also stated that the Ministry usually gets utilisation certificates and fresh proposals in the last quarter of the year. However, the Committee have found that as a result of efforts made by them during the year utilization certificates of previous years had been obtained from State Governments/UTs and the Ministry was expected to utilize the funds allocated to them during the year. The Committee is of the opinion that it is financial prudence to incur the allocated expenditure in such a manner that it is evenly distributed and fully utilized during a financial year. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommend that the Ministry should organize periodical meetings with the representatives of all the States Governments/UT Administrations and impress upon them to submit the proposals at the beginning of the year and also furnish utilization certificates in time so that the allocated funds could be fully utilized and reduction in their allocation at RE stage is avoided. The Committee is of the firm opinion that timely submission of proposals and release of funds for the various welfare schemes of the Ministry would help in a big way the down-trodden and vulnerable sections of the society and also in effective implementation of the schemes of the Ministry.

2.13 The Committee note that the budgetary allocation of the Ministry for the year 2005-06 is Rs 1533.70 crore, an enhancement of only Rs 41.70 crore as compared to the allocation of Rs 1492 crore for the year 2004-05. Considering the increasing number of persons in disadvantaged and the marginalized sections of the society such as Scheduled Castes, OBCs, minorities and persons with disabilities and also induction of new schemes by the Ministry, the increased hike in outlay is negligible. Therefore, to fulfil the mandate of the Ministry of working towards the upliftment of the marginalized sections of our society, as well their integration with mainstream society; the Committee strongly recommend that the Ministry should impress upon the Planning Commission to ensure a substantial hike in Budget Outlay for the year 2005-06.

2.14 The Committee are pleased to be apprised of the initiative taken by the Government with regards to the upliftment of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Private Sector. The Committee note that a group of Ministers is already looking into this aspect. The Committee would, however, like to be apprised of the latest position in this regard.

2.15 The Committee are pleased to note that consequent to the efforts of the Ministry, the Five Schemes which the Planning Commission was ready to transfer to the States, the Ministry have been able to retain all but one. The reasons cited by the Planning Commission for transferring these Schemes to the State Governments were that these Schemes are implemented by the State Governments and the budgetary allocations are

not very large for these Schemes. The Committee are also aware that some of the States/UTs find it difficult to provide even their matching share for the Schemes, and are not able to furnish their utilization certificates on time. In order to ensure that these Schemes remain under the purview of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, the Committee strongly recommend that the Ministry should not only ensure that adequate budgetary allocations are made for these Schemes, but also State Governments /UT Administrations be impressed upon to furnish their utilization Certificates as well as fresh proposals on time for the effective implementation of these Schemes, which are pivotal for the upliftment of marginalized sections of our society.

2.16 The Committee note that majority of the Schemes by the Ministry are Centrally sponsored Schemes and hence implementation lies with the State Governments. The Committee are, however, of the opinion that the Ministry is accountable for the funds disbursed by them in order to ensure that they are utilized properly for the purpose for which they are allotted. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry should set-up a Central Monitoring cell to oversee the progress of implementation of its Schemes. The Committee further recommend that a three-tier monitoring mechanism at Village level, District level and State level should be evolved involving the local administration, District Administration and State Governments.

2.17 The Committee find that the Planning Commission provides budgetary allocation to the Ministry who allocate funds either in the form

of Grants-in-aid or loans to various States/Union Territories for implementation of various welfare schemes formulated for the upliftment of targeted sections of our Society i.e. the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, OBCs, minorities, disabled persons, children in need of care, victims of drug abuse etc. However, it has been observed that the welfare schemes are not properly implemented and funds allocated to the States for implementation of these schemes are not fully utilized by them. The main reasons attributed for not implementing these schemes and low utilization of funds are non-receipt of adequate number of proposals from the States in time, delay in completion of projects, non-receipt of utilization certificates from the channelising agencies/NGOs etc. Also some States do not provide their matching share which results in delay in releasing subsequent installments. It is also stated that the implementation of centrally sponsored schemes is the responsibility of State Governments. However, it is found that the State Governments are unable to fulfill their commitment to the desired extent due to financial constraints. The Committee feel that neither the concerned Ministry nor the State Governments are serious enough as it lacks effective mechanism to monitor and evaluate the proper implementation of the schemes in States/UTs which results in not achieving the desired results of upliftment of the disadvantageous sections of the society. The Committee express their deep anguish at this state of affairs. Keeping in view the mandate of the Ministry for the upliftment of SC/STs, minorities, etc. the Committee desire that the Ministry should impress upon the Planning Commission to take a pro-active role in this regard. The Planning Commission may convene meeting of Chief Ministers of all the

States to take stock of implementation of the schemes before finalizing the annual plans and allocating funds and impress upon them to implement the Centrally Sponsored Welfare Schemes in their States effectively. The Committee also desire that the Planning Commission should pursuade the State Governments to ensure optimum utilization of funds, timely submission of new proposals and effective implementation and monitoring of all welfare schemes in their respective States so that the benefits of the schemes could reach the disadvantaged and marginalised sections of our society. Further, the Committee recommend that whenever any Board or Corporation submits schemes through their respective States and get the sanction of the Central Government, the amount so sanctioned should be placed with the respective Board or Corporation as against their Schemes for utilization. The Ministry and the Planning Commission should also ensure that funds that are allocated for different schemes of the States are utilized for their respective schemes and not diverted.

CHAPTER-III

SCHEDULED CASTES DIVISION

Major Head: 2225
Sub-Head: 793, 341

(a) SPECIAL CENTRAL ASSISTANCE (SCA) TO SPECIAL COMPONENT PLAN (SCP) FOR SCHEDULED CASTES.

3.1 Under the scheme 100% central assistance is extended to supplement the efforts of the States/UTs for ensuring rapid socio-economic development of the Scheduled Castes (SCs). It is provided as an additive to the Special Component Plan (SCP) of the States/UTs for augmenting their efforts for the economic development of Scheduled Castes. The objective of the SCA is to support SC families to enhance their productivity and income. It focuses on maximizing the returns from the assets held by them by filling the critical gaps in the developmental needs. The SCA is released to the States/UTs on the basis of following criteria:-

a)	On the basis of SC Population of the States/UTs	:	40%
b)	On the basis of relative backwardness of the States/UTs (inverse of the State per capita Domestic Product)	:	10%
c)	On the basis of the percentage of SC families in the States/UTs covered by composite economic development programmes in the plans.	:	25%
d)	On the basis of Special Component Plan to the Annual Plan as compared to the SC population percentage in the States/UTs	:	25%

- 2% of the budget allocation of SCA has been earmarked for North Eastern States, which implement SCP for SCs.
- 15% of the total SCA released to the States/UTs shall be utilized exclusively on viable income generating economic development schemes/programmes for SC women;
- 5% of the total SCA released to the States/UTs shall be utilized for the economic development of disabled persons among SCs;

- 3% of the total SCA released to the States/UTs shall be utilized by the States/UTs for supervision, monitoring and evaluation of economic development schemes implemented with the support of SCA funds.

- 10% of the total SCA released to the States/UTs in a year shall be utilized for infrastructure development programmes in the villages having 50% or more of SC population.

- 5% of the total Special Central Assistance released in a year should be utilized for skill development training programmes.

3.2 Second installment of SCA is released to the States/UTs after ensuring expenditure of cumulative opening balances of the previous year and 75% utilization of the first installment for the current year.

3.3 The Scheduled Castes population, according to 2001 Census, was 16.66 crores constituting 16.23% of the total population of India. They are primarily concentrated in Uttar Pradesh – 1.23 crore West Bengal – 1.84 crores, Andhra Pradesh – 1-23 crores and Bihar 1.13 crores. These States amount for 53.36% of the Scheduled Caste population of the country. Uttar Pradesh has the highest concentration of Scheduled Caste population in terms of absolute number; whereas Punjab occupies first position in terms of percentage of Scheduled Castes to the State population. The State/UT-wise Scheduled Castes population as per 2001 Census is given in the following table:-

Statewise/UT wise Scheduled Castes Population according to 2001 Census

S. No.	State/UT	Total population	SC population	Percentage
1	2	3	4	5
	India	1026443540	166575663	16.23
1.	Andhra Pradesh	76210007	12339496	16.19
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1097968	6188	0.56
3.	Assam	26655528	1825949	6.85
4.	Bihar	82998509	13048608	15.72
5.	Goa	1347668	23791	1.77
6.	Gujarat	50671017	3592715	7.09
7.	Haryana	21144564	4091110	19.35
8.	Himachal Pradesh	6077900	1502170	24.72
9.	J&K	10143700	770155	7.59
10.	Karnataka	52850562	8563930	16.20
11.	Kerala	31841374	3123941	9.81
12.	Madhya Pradesh	60348023	9155177	15.17
13.	Maharashtra	96878627	9881656	10.20
14.	Manipur	2166788	60037	2.77
15.	Meghalaya	2318822	11139	0.48
16.	Mizoram	888573	272	0.03
17.	Nagaland	1990036	Nil	--
18.	Orissa	36804664	6082063	16.53
19.	Punjab	24358999	7028723	28.85
20.	Rajasthan	56507188	9694462	17.16
21.	Sikkim	540851	27165	5.02

22.	Tamil Nadu	62405679	11857504	19.00
23.	Tripura	3199203	555724	17.37
24.	Uttar Pradesh	166197921	35148377	21.15
25.	West Bengal	80176197	18452555	23.02
26.	Chattisgarh	20833803	2418722	11.61
27.	Jharkhand	26945829	3189320	11.84
28.	Uttranchal	8489349	1517186	17.87
29.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands$	356152	Nil	--
30.	Chandigarh	900635	157597	17.50
31.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	220490	4104	1.86
32.	Daman & Diu	158204	4838	3.06
33.	Delhi	13850507	2343255	16.92
34.	Lakshadweep$	60650	Nil	--
35.	Pondicherry	974345	157771	16.19
	$ 'No community has been notified as Scheduled Caste'			
	* The list of Scheduled Castes of Arunachal Pradesh has been denotified vide the Scheduled Castes (Orders) (Second Amendment) Act, 2002.			

Statement showing the details of Special Central Assistance to Special Component Plan for Scheduled Castes Released/Utilized during Xth Plan

S. No	States/ UT	2002-03		2003-04		2004-05 (As on 31.12.2004)	
		Released	Utilized	Released	Utilized	Released	utilized
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	A.P.	7216.48	6367.17	6222.90	5595.74	1966.90	1476.47
2	Assam	512.76	514.47	625.21	305.76	403.42	560.82
3	Bihar	0.00	0.00	933.00	500.00	0.00	N.R.
4	Chattisgarh	430.25	374.58	408.29	382.60	339.05	N.R.
5	Gujarat	559.73	1406.28	644.46	996.88	705.82	268.32
6	Goa	0.00	0.32	0.00	0.00	0.00	N.R.
7	Haryana	1098.19	856.22	1434.00	835.45	0.00	230.25
8	H.P.	447.99	428.96	248.66	348.87	587.47	206.80
9	J & K	122.88	208.55	148.46	112.69	495.08	N.R.
10	Jharkhand	0.00	223.12	0.00	0.00	0.00	N.R.
11	Karnataka	2386.12	2386.12	2124.76	2124.76	1817.76	1008.32
12	Kerala	0.00	1189.16	0.00	0.00	0.00	N.R.
13	M.P.	2598.12	2390.5	2955.43	3277.30	1601.26	N.R.
14	Maharashtra	1077.1	2906.02	1991.36	2881.63	2924.36	1852.41
15	Manipur	0.00	32.52	4.42	1.90	3.82	N.R.
16	Orissa	1792.01	1795.82	779.30	2015.75	345.70	72.56
17	Punjab	0.00	1289.85	680.03	380.28	0.00	62.64
18	Rajasthan	3422.9	4013.92	2984.25	3697.04	1183.00	978.94
19	Sikkim	42.21	42.20	1.12	34.76	15.44	N.R.
20	Tamil Nadu	4500.71	4182.03	3800.74	5123.08	1881.88	1826.34
21	Tripura	176.91	124.80	76.80	178.91	113.12	N.R.
22	Uttar Pradesh	10173.64	13417.92	7817.94	12372.55	5443.97	5261.04
23	Uttranchal	174.57	520.03	407.74	538.34	476.08	350.84
24	West Bengal	6640.50	6640.50	3994.68	3753.66	2918.86	1876.88
25	Chandigarh	25.00	12.50	12.50	0.00	0.00	N.R.
26	Delhi	0.00	545.23	99.37	3.13	0.00	N.R.
27	Pondicherry	5.81	5.81	3.13	11.33	3.13	N.R.
	Total	**43403.88**	**52803.05**	**38398.55**	**45472.45**	**23226.12**	**12669.09**

3.4 The Ministry had submitted a proposal to the Planning Commission for allocation of Rs. 418.50 crore (Rs. 410.00 crore BE and Rs. 8.41 crore for NE) for the financial year 2004-2005. However, the Planning Commission has sanctioned only Rs. 410.20 crore (Rs. 402.00 crore BE and Rs. 8.20 crore for NE).

3.5 The Ministry has submitted the following statement showing details of State Component Plan Outlay made from State Plan Outlay:

Sl. No	States/UTs	2001 Census SC Population	2002-03				2003-04				
			State Plan Outlay	Flow to SCP	% of SCP	SCP Expenditure	State Plan Outlay	Flow to SCP	% of SCP	SCP Expenditure	SCP Exp.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		11
1	Andhra Pradesh	16.20	10100.00	1223.7	12.12	1106.20	10970.46	1654.57	15.00	1577.02	1577.02
2	Assam	6.90	906.78	69.78	7.70	64.29	1112.99	65.73	5.91		25.05
3	Bihar	15.70	2724.13	572.48	21.02	Not Reported					
4	Chattisgarh	11.60	2043	150.99	7.39		Not Reported				
5	Gujarat	7.10	7600.00	421.42	5.55	238.64	7860.00	427.78	5.44		311.77
6	Goa	1.80	Not Reported			Not Reported					
7	Haryana	19.30	2034.00	404.82	19.90	371.95	2100.00	416.72	19.84		
8	Himachal Pradesh	24.70	2185.43	176.00	8.05	152.93	1335.00	110.89	8.31		108.60*
9	Jammu & Kashmir	7.60	2265.15	47.58	2.10	45.82	Not Reported				
10	Jharkhand	11.80	Not Reported			Not Reported					
11	Karnataka	16.20	8610.61	667.40	7.75	465.72	9127.52	654.5	7.07		
12	Kerala	9.80	4326.00	402.55	9.31	Not Reported					
13	Madhya Pradesh	15.20	4749.77	590.48	12.43	450.12	5340.00	664.10	12.44		Not Reported
14	Maharashtra	10.20	11562.00	530.27	4.59	284.86	12052.50	610.62	5.07		305.23
15	Manipur		Not Reported			Not Reported					
16	Orissa	16.50	3100.00	276.25	8.91	295.33	3400.00	299.68	8.81		371.08
17	Punjab	28.90	2793.00	392.33	14.05	162.63		819.95			
18	Rajasthan	17.20	4370.78	698.34	15.98	689.33	5504.52	907.19	16.48		960.45
19	Sikkim	5.00	133.35	9.49	7.12	Not Reported	116.71	9.86	8.45		
20	Tamil Nadu	19.00	5751.52	1189.05	20.67	1192.79	7000.13	1546.64	22.09		1615.14
21	Tripura	17.40	600.11	5.35	10.89	47.72	650.00	45.60	7.02		55.58
22	Uttar Pradesh	21.01	7250.00	1538.08	21.21	751.01	7728.00	1640.00	21.22		760.50
23	Uttranchal	17.90	1533.63	263.39	17.17	250.22	1575.00	291.30	18.50		148.16
24	West Bengal	23.00	6307.00	586.89	9.31	376.82	3633.63	369.95	10.18		
25	Chandigarh	11.60	165.42	10.07	6.09	9.74	168.00	11.24	6.69		
26	Delhi	16.90	4700.00	265.52	5.65	239.24	5025.00	287.77	5.73		
27	Pondicherry	16.20	412.05	43.47	10.55	42.96	468.63	3.03	15.58		67.65

3.6 In their written reply furnished to the Committee, the Ministry have categorically stated that there are some States that are not allocating the funds under Special Component Plan (SCP) in proportion to the Scheduled Caste population of the State Government as laid down in the guidelines. Further they have stated that all States are aware that 25% of the Budget allocation under Special Central Assistance (SCA) is released on the basis of Special Component Plan (SCP) allocation and their expenditure. According to the efforts taken by the State Government in comparison with other State Governments, they get their due share of 25% of BE under Special Central Assistance (SCA) scheme. However, this Ministry insists reiterates the guidelines on Special Central Assistance (SCA) and Special Component Plan (SCP) from time to time.

3.7 At present, 27 State/UTs having sizable Scheduled Caste population are implementing Special Component Plan. The details of total State Plan Outlay flow to SCP for the last two years of 10th Plan are given below:

(Rs. in crore)

Period	Total State Plan out lay	SCP outlay	% of SCP outlay to State Plan outlay
2002-03	96223.73	10595.79	11.01
2003-04	85515.23	10840.18	12.68

3.8 The percentage of Scheduled Caste and total population below poverty line during 1993-94 and 199-2000 is reported as under:

Year	Total		Scheduled Castes	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
1993-1994	38.20	39.09	48.11	49.48
1999-2000	27.09	23.62	36.62	38.47

3.9 The above table shows that although there has been a reduction in the incidence of poverty among all sections of society including Scheduled Castes, but the reduction was comparatively lesser in case of scheduled castes in urban areas. Still about 37.36% of Scheduled Caste population continue to live below the poverty line, as compared to 20.26% of total population.

3.10 The Committee have been informed that the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment monitors the implementation of Special Component Plan of the States as well as Central Ministries/Departments. Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is concerned with the Welfare of SCs. The Ministry has been pursuing with various Central Ministries and State Governments for implementation of Special Component Plan. However, even after two decades of operation of the scheme, only 16 Ministries/Departments are formulating the Special Component Plan.

3.11 In reply to a query relating to utilization of only 55% of SCA funds released by the center to the States till 31.13.2004, the Ministry have replied that the State Governments collect the utilization certificates from their Scheduled Caste Development Corporation and the implementing agencies. The collection of Utilization Certificates by the State Governments and submission to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment takes time.

3.12 The Committee express their serious concern that some States are not following the Guidelines laid down by the Ministry with regard to allocating funds under SCP in proportion to their Scheduled Castes population. The State outlay under SCP is only 11.01% and 12.68% during the years 2002-03 and 2003-04 which is much below the average Scheduled Caste population in the country. The Ministry have stated that States get proportionate allocation of SCA based on their SCP allocation as per the SC population in there States and if they do not follow the guidelines their share gets reduced proportionately. Keeping in view the welfare of the targeted people, the Committee strongly recommend that the Ministry should impress upon all the 27 States/UTs availing SCA to SCP funds to make allocation under their SCP in proportion to their SC population and get their share of SCA funds on time.

3.13 The Committee note with concern that in spite of implementation of welfare schemes for the Scheduled Castes for more than five decades the reduction in the incidence of poverty among Scheduled Castes particularly in urban areas, is much less as compared to general population. Therefore, the Committee are of the view that the government should rise to meet its commitment of upliftment of the disadvantaged SC population and allocate more funds for the schemes formulated for their welfare and persuade the State Governments also to allocate more funds out of their total plan outlay to the State Component Plan and ensure eradication of poverty among them.

3.14 The Committee note that even after two decades of operation of this scheme, only 16 Ministries/Departments, out of the 30 have formulated Special Component Plan for SCs whereas 14 Ministries/Departments have not yet formulated SCP for SCs. The Committee strongly recommend that the remaining Ministries/Departments, grouped under category-III which are service-oriented and whose activities are of divisible nature, should be persuaded by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment for formulating not only the Special Component Plan, but also ensuring its effective implementation and monitoring. The Committee desire that the Planning Commission be apprised of this situation to ensure compliance of the same by the remaining Ministries/Departments.

3.15 The Committee note that the allocation of SCA to SCP amounts to nearly 44% of funds allocated to the Scheduled Castes Division. In the year 2004-05 the SCA funds released by the Ministry was Rs. 23226.12 lakh and the utilization till 31.12.2004 was only Rs 12669.09 lakh, which in percentage terms is only 55%, an abysmally low figure of utilization. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommend that the Government should impress upon the States/UTs, availing SCA funds, to furnish utilization certificates on time to ensure timely release of the second installment of SCA funds and to utilize them fully to ensure effective implementation of this Scheme.

Major Head : 2225
Sub-Head : 277
Detailed Head : 09.00.31

(b) SCHEME FOR PRE-MATRIC SCHOLARSHIP FOR THE CHILDREN OF THOSE WHO ENGAGED IN UNCLEAN OCCUPATIONS.

Rs. in Crore

Year	BE	RE	Actual Expenditure
2002-03	14.50	12.50	5.13
2003-04	14.50	10.00	14.60
2004-05	16.00	10.00	7.64(28.3.2005)
2005-06			

3.16 The objective of this scheme is to provide financial assistance to enable the children of the parents traditionally engaged in unclean occupations like scavengers of dry-latrines, tanners, flayers and sweepers having traditional links with scavenging, to pursue pre-matric education. Under the scheme, the Central assistance is provided to the State Governments on a 50:50 basis and 100 percent to UT Administrations, over and above their respective committed liabilities to be met by them from their own State/UT budget.

3.17 The revised scheme with following modification has come into force with effect from 1.4.2004.

3.18 The rate of scholarship for day scholar, which was earlier ranging from Rs. 25.00 to Rs. 50.00 per month, has been enhanced to Rs. 40.00 to Rs. 75.00 per month. Similarly the rate of scholarship for hostellers, which was earlier ranging from Rs. 200 to 250 per month, has been revised from Rs. 300 to Rs. 375 per month. The rate of annual ad-hoc grant, which was earlier Rs. 500 per student for both day scholars and hostellers, has been enhanced to Rs. 550 and Rs. 600 for day scholars and hostellers respectively.

3.19 Also during the year 2003-04, against the allocation of Rs. 14.50 crore, central assistance of Rs. 14.60 crore was released which assisted more that 5 lakh students. Allocation for 2004-05 for this scheme is Rs. 16.00 crore against which Rs. 7.64 crore has been released up to 28.3.2005. The scheme is expected to benefit about 6 lakh students during 2004-05. A token allocation of Rs.0.01 core has been made for the year 2005-06.

3.20 On being asked the reasons for the reductions of the Budgetary allocations at R.E. stage, the Ministry have informed that during the financial year 2002-03, the first year of 10th Plan, budget allocation of Rs. 14.50 crore was provided to meet the additional expenditure on account of revision of the scheme, which included enhancement of rates of scholarship amount. The scheme could not be revised during that year which resulted in reduction of allocation at RE stage.

3.21 During 2003-04, the scheme was revised and the Ministry was able to utilize the entire allocation for that year.

3.22 During the current financial year 2004-05, due to insufficient demand for funds from the States/UTs, the Ministry had recommended to reduce the outlay at RE stage to avoid surrender of funds at the fag end of the year.

3.23 It is further stated that Planning Commission has proposed to transfer the scheme to the States/UTs from the next financial year i.e. 2005-06. Hence a token provision has been made by the Planning Commission in the Annual Plan 2005-06.

3.24 Also during the course of evidence, the Secretary Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment informed the Committee that the Planning Commission was considering transferring this scheme to the State Governments as these schemes were generally implemented by the State Governments and the budgetary allocations are not very large. When asked the views of Ministry in this regard, it is stated that the Ministry is of the view that the awardees' are assured benefits to the extent contained in the scheme. It is apprehended that once this Scheme is transferred to the States it becomes a State/sector scheme, the financial constraints may adversely affect the implementation and the State Welfare Departments implementing this scheme, may find it difficult with State Finance Department to obtain additional resources, when required. It has been experienced that some States have been even failing to provide for the required level of Committed Liability under the Scheme which covers children of most vulnerable section of society i.e. scavenging, sweeping with traditional links with scavenging, flayers and tanners. Some States have been providing lesser matching State share owing to limited resources. The corresponding release of matching Central Share also gets reduced. The States' financial constraints affect adversely the target groups of the beneficiaries. The Ministry therefore presented the view before the Planning Commission that the scheme should not be transferred to the States, in a meeting held on 30.3.2005 with the principal Advisor Planning Commission. The Principal Advisor agreed to retain all the Centrally Sponsored Schemes with the exception of Employment of Handicapped. Consequent to the discussion with the Planning Commission it was decided the scheme would be retained by the Ministry.

3.25 The Ministry have also furnished details of the beneficiaries of this scheme during the last three years as per the tables below:

COVERAGE UNDER CENTRALLY SPONSORED SCHEME OF PRE MATRIC SCHOLARSHIP TO THE CHILDREN OF THOSE ENGAGED IN UNCLEAN OCCUPATIONS

S.No.	Name of State/UT	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05 (anticipated)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	33399	24007	35676
2.	Assam	3052	3089	3148
3.	Bihar	7529	2209	4833
4.	Chhattisgarh	151130	11497	17241
5.	Goa	176	150	220
6.	Gujarat	222330	200055	227764
7.	Haryana	20253	16592	19700
8.	Himachal Pradesh	NA	3335	NA
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	NA		NA
10.	Jharkhand	4639	753	988
11.	Karnataka	3824	0	4711
12.	Kerala	877	470	539
13.	Madhya Pradesh	75094	57517	58413
14.	Madhya Pradesh	63996	57204	69482
15.	Orissa	994	1641	NA
16.	Pondicherry	1049	1615	1780
17.	Punjab	7416	0	8472
18.	Rajasthan	30363	16496	31652
19.	Sikkim	NA	NA	NA
20.	Tamil Nadu	39450	42334	44452
21.	Tripura	4592	4486	4198
22.	Uttar Pradesh	46829	56399	62853
23.	Uttaranchal	NA	1245	2531
24.	West Bengal	1390	1870	NA
	Total	**582382**	**502964**	**598653**

N.A. Not Available

CENTRAL ASSISTANCE RELEASED UNDER THE PRE-MATRIC SCHOLARSHIP TO THE CHILDREN OF THOSE ENGAGED IN UNCLEAN OCCUPATIONS DURING LAST THREE YEARS TILL DATE

S.No.	Name of State/UT	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1.	Andhra Pradesh	252.60	458.9	275.34
2.	Assam	8.12	10.07	4.215
3.	Bihar	20.00	32.79	Nil
4.	Chhattisgarh	21.81	20.54	Nil
5.	Delhi	Nil	Nil	Nil
6.	Goa	0.02	0.33	0.3295
7.	Gujarat	Nil	345.57	103.67
8.	Haryana	Nil	Nil	Nil
9.	Himachal Pradesh	9.74	Nil	Nil
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	5.09	Nil	Nil
11.	Jharkhand	1.15	Nil	Nil
12.	Karnataka	11.46	Nil	Nil

13.	Kerala	Nil	Nil	Nil
14.	Madhya Pradesh	62.63	85.60	126.56
15.	Maharashtra	Nil	157.74	47.32
16.	Orissa	2.08	Nil	Nil
17.	Pondicherry	1.80	8.46	5.00
18.	Punjab	Nil	18.513	5.55
19.	Rajasthan	38.83	124.5935	63.88
20.	Sikkim	Nil	Nil	Nil
21.	Tamil Nadu	61.50	91.04	27.31
22.	Tripura	2.30	6.64	5.9805
23.	Uttar Pradesh	Nil	92.56	88.32
24.	Uttaranchal	7.79	Nil	Nil
25.	West Bengal	5.59	6.82	2.05
	Total	**512.50**	**1460.16**	**755.53**

N.A. Not Available

3.26 When asked to furnish the literacy rate of the people engaged in unclean occupation, details of students who availed of this scheme and drop out rate of the students under the scheme, the Ministry informed that Census of the people engaged in the unclean occupation has not been made in 2001. Hence the literacy rate of such people is not available and data of the students who availed the scheme is not centrally monitored. It is further stated that the Ministry is not maintaining success/drop out rate under the scheme.

3.27 The Committee observe that the people engaged in unclean occupations are grossly marginalized sections of our society and the most disadvantaged among the under privileged. Education being the most powerful equipment in upliftment of the marginalized people, the significance of 'Pre-matric Scholarship Scheme' increases manifold as it plays a pivotal role in shaping the destiny of the children whose parents are engaged in unclean occupation traditionally. The Committee note with concern that during the last three years, the Budget Estimates under this scheme have been consecutively reduced at Revised Estimate stage. In 2002-03 and 2004-05 an expenditure of Rs. 5.13 crore out of Rs. 12.50 crore and Rs. 7.64 crore out of Rs. 10.00 crore (BE Rs 16.00 crore) respectively was incurred. The Committee also note with dismay that during 2004-05 there was insufficient demand for funds from the States/UTs compelling the Ministry to recommend reducing the outlay at

RE stage to avoid surrender of funds at the fag end of the year. The Committee, therefore, recommend that keeping in view the significant role this scheme plays in upliftment of the most disadvantaged sections of our society, the Ministry should strongly plead their case before the Planning Commission for higher allocation of funds for effective implementation of the scheme. The Committee also desire that the Ministry should impress upon the State Governments/UTs, who have equal commitment for their upliftment, to effectively implement the scheme, ensure full utilization of the funds and submit proposals at the begining of the year so that the desired results could be achieved.

3.28 The Committee further note with concern that the Planning Commission has proposed to transfer the scheme to States/UTs w.e.f. the financial year 2005-06. The Committee fully endorse the views of the Ministry that it is apprehended that the financial constraints with the State Governments would adversely affect the implementation of the scheme and the State Finance Departments may not be able to obtain additional resources, when required, since many States have not been providing matching share resulting in reduction in central matching share also. Therefore, the Committee strongly desire that the scheme should not be transferred to the States.

3.29 The Committee note with regret that the Government has not taken up in 2001 the census of the people engaged in unclean jobs. In the absence of such vital data the details regarding the literacy rate of these people and the details of the students who availed benefits under

the scheme are not available with the Government. The Committee is also surprised to note that the Ministry is not maintaining even the success/drop out rate under the scheme. The committee feel that the Government is not serious towards its commitment for the upliftment of this marginalized section. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommend the Ministry to vigorously pursue with the competent authority to conduct a survey of this section of the society and also to take the necessary steps for obtaining the data of their literacy rate and the drop out rate so that adequate funds may be allocated for their educational upliftment through pre-matric scholarships scheme and realistic plans may be formulated for their over all advancement.

Major Head: 2225
Sub-Head: 277
Detailed Head : 04.00.31

(c) POST MATRIC SCHOLARSHIP TO STUDENTS BELONGING TO SCHEDULED CASTES.

3.30 Under the scheme, financial assistance is provided to Scheduled Castes students for pursuing studies beyond matriculation in recognized institutions. The assistance includes maintenance allowance, reimbursement of compulsory non-refundable fees charged by the institution, thesis typing/printing charges, study tour charges in case of professional courses, book allowance for students pursuing correspondence courses and additional allowances for students with disabilities. Scholarship is disbursed through respective State Governments and Union Territory Administrations and 100% central assistance is provided to them over and above their committed liability. With effect from IXth Five Year Plan, the committed liability is dispensed with for the North Eastern States.

3.31 The Ministry have furnished the following information highlighting the performance of the Scheme during the last three years: -

Year	Budget Allocation	Central Assistance Released	No. of Beneficiaries
	(Rs. in crore)		(in lakhs)
2002-03	150.00	153.05	18.94
2003-04	260.00	264.99	19.94
2004-05	313.24	287.50 As on 14.1.2005	24.00 (estimated)

3.32 The Ministry have further furnished State-wise details of amount provided and beneficiaries assisted during the last three years in the following tables:

Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Post Matric Scholarship for SC students – Central assistance released during last three years till date

(Rs. In lakhs)

S.No.	Name of State	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5804.52	5449.14	8034.74
2.	Assam	221.32	412.41	288.28
3.	Bihar	NIL	NIL	1000.00
4.	Chhattisgarh	106.83	352.72	1567.79
5.	Goa	2.70	NIL	1.93
6.	Gujarat	NIL	1373.70	412.11
7.	Haryana	180.92	228.53	301.66
8.	Himachal Pradesh	NIL	11.82	3.55
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	19.99	95.99	28.80

10.	Jharkhand	266.64	281.04	84.31
11.	Karnataka	984.47	2481.94	1369.58
12.	Kerala	674.44	677.57	800.97
13.	Madhya Pradesh	371.82	1278.93	1366.60
14.	Maharashtra	1696.66	2765.58	4220.47
15.	Manipur	71.28	82.77	84.13
16.	Meghalaya	6.90	15.55	4.67
17.	Orissa	NIL	NIL	NIL
18.	Punjab	60.00	NIL	NIL
19.	Rajasthan	400.67	1207.70	750.9
20.	Sikkim	NIL	NIL	No Due
21.	Tamil Nadu	1658.56	2184.45	2291.78
22.	Tripura	85.06	174.24	195.84
23.	Uttar Pradesh	1994.41	5137.58	4957.16
24.	Uttaranchal	NIL	NIL	302.25
25.	West Bengal	677.37	2165.81	649.74
26.	Daman & Diu	0.08	NIL	0.89
27.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	NIL	NIL	NIL
28.	Delhi	NIL	22.16	6.65
29.	Pondicherry	20.03	99.74	43.35
	Total	**15304.67**	**26499.36**	**28708.15**

Coverage under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Post Matric Scholarship to SC students

S.No.	Name of State/UT	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05 (Anticipated)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	237244	276880	299030
2.	Assam	12550	14007	21600
3.	Bihar	26506	29031	94965
4.	Chhattisgarh	30475	33523	36877
5.	Goa	82	92	115
6.	Gujarat	49005	81766	86332
7.	Haryana	15918	15930	22097
8.	Himachal Pradesh	4430	5216	NA
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	6021	4581	11491
10.	Jharkhand	15937	10950	13705
11.	Karnataka	137014	87103	165645
12.	Kerala	89577	73550	83633
13.	Madhya Pradesh	78229	82554	91076
14.	Maharashtra	228677	288182	317008
15.	Manipur	1187	2744	3018
16.	Meghalaya	1210	1331	1464
17.	Orissa	43130	45718	NA
18.	Punjab	21715	5920	38583
19.	Rajasthan	78373	83948	95527
20.	Sikkim	N.A.	194	294
21.	Tamil Nadu	201437	234324	275369
22.	Tripura	7926	8491	8501
23.	Uttar Pradesh	24119	25805	31092
24.	Uttaranchal	403425	391380	512612
25.	West Bengal	168386	166415	190922
26.	Daman & Diu	N.A.	62	79
27.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	N.A.	N.A.	NA

28.	Delhi	7793	10021	NA
29.	Pondicherry	3694	3578	3936
	Total	**1894060**	**1983296**	**2404971**

3.33 The Ministry have further stated that this scheme has been revised w.e.f. 1.4.2003 with following modifications: The rate of scholarship for day scholars, which was earlier ranging from Rs. 190 to Rs. 90 has been enhanced in the range of Rs. 330 to Rs. 140.

i) Similarly the rate of scholarship for hostellers, which was earlier ranging from Rs. 425 to Rs. 150, has been enhanced in the range of Rs. 740 to Rs. 235.
ii) Enhancement of rate of maintenance allowance for various categories of courses.
iii) Enhancement of other allowances such as study tour charges, thesis typing/printing charges and book grant.
iv) Revision of income ceiling to Rs. 1.00 lakhs for eligibility
v) Merger of book bank scheme with the scheme.

3.34 During course of evidence the Committee pointed out that when a Scheduled Caste student take admission in Managerial course or professional course he has to pay higher fee. In this regard the Committee enquired whether the Government has any scholarship scheme for such students. In response thereto, the Government representative stated that in case of Post Matric Scholarship Scheme this problem of payment of fee comes in professional courses, engineering, medical or technology etc. where they have categorized various seats which have government quota. He further stated that the second category is management seats which the management also allocate. For that category of seat also the fee is higher, however, it is not so high as compared to the payment seat (the third category). In case of payment seat the fee varies from one college to another college. Some Colleges charge very high fee varying from Rs. 25000/- to Rs. 50,000/-. He clarified the Government position that in that case they are not in a position to pay the fee of the payment seats. But they are managing ten percent. The government is going to spent Rs. 313 crore during 2004-05 on that account.

3.35 The Government representative further stated that the problem of fee can be solved. The scholarship consists of two parts-one is the fee and another is maintenance allowance. Government is paying the maintenance allowance by and large, and they have got it revised to Rs. 750/- per month. But as far as the fee component is concerned, it will be fully reimbursed subject to an evaluation study. They have got conducted some studies. He further submitted that if they wanted to meet the full payment of management seats and payment seats that will require a lot of Budget allocation for which they will have to approach the Government that means Ministry of Finance.

3.36 The Committee observed that regarding the quantum of fee charged by the government colleges and the private college some guidelines should be formulated.

3.37 The Committee express their concern over the fact that the Scheduled Caste students who are already financially not sound have to pay higher fee when they take admission in managerial/professional/engineering/medical courses. Some colleges even charge fee as high as Rs. 25000/- to Rs. 50,000/-. The Committee find that with the present budget, the Ministry is not in a position to pay the fee of the payment seats or even management seats. They are managing only ten percent with their limited budget. However, the Committee note that the Government would be able to reimburse the fee component fully subject to an evaluation study. The Committee feel that in case the fee component part for admission of Scheduled Caste students in the professional courses under managerial quota is taken care of satisfactorily, it can play a crucial role in their socio-economic advancement. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommend that the budgetary allocations of the Ministry under the head Post Matric Scholarship Scheme should be substantially enhanced so that fees paid by Scheduled Caste students for entry into professional courses, particularly under managerial seats, could be fully reimbursed to them. The Committee also desire that an evaluation study should be conducted in this regard urgently. The Committee also feel that some guidelines should be formulated by the Government about the quantum of fee to be charged by the private colleges particularly for professional courses.

Major Head: 2225
Sub-Head :277

(d) Scheme of Upgradation of Merit of SC students through extra coaching

(Rs. in crore)

BE 2003-04	RE 2003-04	Exp. 2003-04	BE 2004-05	RE 2004-05	Exp. 2004-05
58.00	19.00	1.85	18.00	2.00	0.95

3.38 The Ministry have informed the Committee that the Scheme of Upgradation of Merit of Scheduled Caste students provides for 100% central assistance to States/Union Territories for arranging remedial and special coaching for Scheduled Castes students studying in Classes 9 to 12. While remedial coaching aims at removing the deficiencies in school subjects, special coaching is provided with a view to prepare students for competitive examinations for entry into professional courses like Engineering and Medical Sciences.

3.39 The scheme is to be revised for assisting the meritorious Scheduled Caste students for pursuing quality education including technical and professional courses. The main features of the proposed modified scheme are:

i) Scholarship award will be paid to students from IX to XII, diploma and degree level.
ii) Selection of students will be made by the State Governments/UT Administrations based on merit (securing not less than 50% marks)
iii) Increase in scale of assistance i.e. Rs. 12,000/- per student, per annum for IX class to XII class students and Rs. 37,000/- per student per annum for degree/diploma level students.
iv) Increase in number of awards from 104 to 25,000
v) Scholarship is to be provided to the students having income less than 1.00 lakh.
vi) 100% financial assistance will be given through State Governments/UT Admns.

3.40 The allocation for 2003-04 for this scheme was Rs 58.00 crore, which was revised to Rs. 19 crore at RE stage, out of which Rs. 1.85 crore was released to various States Governments/UT Administrations for the benefit of 1378 students. Allocation for 2004-05 is Rs 18.00 crore, which has been reduced to Rs. 2 crore, out of which Rs. 1.54 crore has been released up to 31.12.2004. A token allocation of Rs. 0.01 crore has been made of the year 2005-06.

3.41 The Ministry have furnished details of releases of the Central assistance and the number of Scheduled Caste students benefited under the Scheme during the last two years and the current year are as follows:-

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Expenditure	Beneficiaries
2002-03	3.05	2144
2003-04	1.85	1378
2004-05(31.12.2004)	1.54	699

3.42 When asked the reasons for reduction in allocation under the scheme, the Ministry have stated that this Ministry did not receive proposals from various State Governments. Only a few State Governments like Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tripura and Uttar Pradesh have availed grants-in-aid under the above scheme. Hence RE was curtailed during 2003-04 and 2004-05. It is further stated that the existing Scheme of Upgradation of Merit of SC Students is being replaced by a new scheme called "Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Merit based Scholarship and assistance to Students belonging to Scheduled Castes for studying in Reputed public schools/Premier Institutions" The new scheme provides inter-alia that the family income of the student from all sources should not be more than Rs. 1.00 lakh per annum. The Ministry also informed that no evaluation study on the scheme of Upgradation of Merit of SC students has been carried out during the last 3 year i.e. since 2001-02 onwards.

3.43 The Committee note with serious concern that the Government have not paid any heed to its recommendation contained in its First Report on Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (2004-05) wherein, the Committee had expressed their extreme disappointment and voiced their strong concern over the fact that the Ministry had not been able to finalize the proposed modifications in this scheme for the last 2 years, while at the same time drastically reducing the allocation of funds for this scheme. The Committee note that during the years 2003-04 and 2004-05, actual expenditure incurred under the scheme is very low and budgetary allocation i.e. Rs. 0.01 crore for the year 2005-06 is a token one. This has resulted in the number of potential beneficiaries of this scheme going down drastically. The reasons attributed by the Ministry for low allocation of funds is that they received very few proposals from the States. The Committee also find that the existing scheme of upgradation of Merit of SC students is being

replaced by the new scheme "Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Merit based scholarship and Assistance to students benefiting to Scheduled Castes for studying in reputed public schools/Premier Institutions. Keeping in mind the pivotal role played by such a scheme in shaping the destiny of the Scheduled Caste children, the Committee hope that the new scheme would be implemented soon and adequate budgetary allocations would be made under the scheme to ensure that remedial and special coaching for SC students are arranged to prepare them for competitive examinations for entry into professional courses. The Committee also desire that until the new scheme is made fully operational, the existing one should continue to operate for which adequate funds may be assured for the eligible students. The Government should also pursue with the State Governments to submit adequate proposals, and the scheme should be evaluated at the earliest.

CHAPTER-IV

MINORITIES DIVISION

4.1 The Ministry have informed the Committee that five minority communities Muslims, Sikhs, Christians, Buddhists and Zoroastrians (Parsis) are notified as minorities under the National Commission for Minorities (NCM) Act-1992. The Muslims are 13.4 percent, Christians 2.3 percent, Sikhs 1.9 percent, Buddhists 0.8 percent and Zorastrians 0.007 percent of the total population of the country. Thus, they constitute 18.4 percent of the total population of the country, as per 2001 census. The Government's endeavour is to create conditions in which the minorities are assured that their Constitutional and legal rights are safeguarded, and educationally and economically they are at par with the mainstream.

4.2 The Budgetary Estimate for the Minorities Division under Plan and Non-Plan during 2004-05 was Rs. 77.97 crore, and the actual expenditure incurred upto 1.3.2005 was only to the tune of Rs. 44.50 crore. The B.E. for 2005-06 is Rs. 56.15 core.

4.3 The Committee are perturbed to note that the budgetary allocation for the Minorities who constitute 18% of the total population was Rs. 77.97 crore out of which expenditure of only Rs. 44.5 crore was incurred. For the year 2005-06 budgetary allocation is Rs. 56.15 crore. The Committee feel that the Government is not serious towards its commitment for the welfare of minorities as the present allocation is woefully inadequate. Keeping in view the economic and educational backwardness of minorities, the Committee urge the Ministry to take up the matter with the Planning Commission for enhancement in budgetary allocation for the minority division. The Committee feel that the minority community is not fully aware of the various schemes formulated by the Government for their welfare and upliftment. The Committee, therefore, desire that the Government should take initiative for generating awareness among minorities by distributing pamphlets and displaying hoardings at different public places, in English, Hindi and other regional

languages, giving details of the Schemes meant for them at Panchayat level.

(b) Scheme for Development of Urban Wakf Properties

4.4 The Committee have been informed that Wakfs are permanent dedications of moveable or immovable properties for purposes recognized by the Muslim Law as pious, religious or charitable. Apart from their religious aspect, the Wakfs are also instruments of social good as the benefits accrue to the needy in socio-economic and educational fields. With a view to improving the financial position of the Wakfs and the Wakf Boards and to enable them to enlarge the area of their welfare work, the Central Government has been giving, since 1974-75, grant-in-aid to the Central Wakf Council, (a statutory body set up by it). This grant is meant for the specific purpose of advancing financial assistance to Wakf Boards/Wakf Institutions in the country for the development of their Urban Wakf Properties.

4.5 Under the Scheme, the Central Wakf Council extends loan assistance to State Wakf Boards/Wakf Institutions for specific development projects approved by the Council and Central Government. These projects involve construction or reconstruction of commercially viable buildings on Wakf lands. The augmented income is utilized to enable the Wakf Boards/Wakfs to strengthen their financial position and to widen the scope of their welfare and charitable activities. The whole process is intended to contribute to the overall progress and development of the society. The loan amount is repaid to the Council by the loanee institutions in easy installments and such payments form a Revolving Fund, which is again utilized by the Council for the same development purposes for minor schemes on similar terms of repayment and for implementing some educational programmes also. Thus, this scheme is broadly aimed at the protection of the Wakf created or the welfare of the Muslim community, with added resources for their functioning in the manner required.

(Rs. in lakh)

Year	BE	RE	Actual Expenditure
2004-05	170	155	---

4.6 On being asked the reasons for non-utilization of funds during the year 2004-05, the Ministry have replied that as regards to release of grant-in-aid to the Council during the year 2004-05, the Ministry have issued a sanction for Rs. 59 lakhs on 9th March, 2005. For the remaining amount of Rs. 94 lakhs out of the total revised estimate of Rs. 155 lakhs, the matter is being processed.

4.7 The Ministry have also furnished a statement showing the State-wise number of projects and the amount sanctioned during the last three years:

Statement showing the State-wise number of construction/ Re-construction projects approved/amount sanctioned for construction during the last three years.

Amount (Rupees in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of States	2001-02 Amount	No. of Projects	2002-03 Amount	No. of Projects	2003-04 Amount	No. of projects
1.	Punjab	23.38	1	35.70	1	-	-
2.	Manipur	20.00	1	11.30	1	-	-
3.	Maharashtra	-	-	25.00	1	25.00	1
4.	Madhya Pradesh	20.00	1	-	-	15.00	1
5.	Kerala	20.00	3	5.00	2	35.75	3
6.	Karnataka	56.62	6	41.00	2	43.00	3
7.	Gujarat	-	-	25.00	1	31.00	2
8.	Tamil Nadu	-	-	15.00	1	8.25	1
	Total	**140.00**	**12**	**158.00**	**9**	**158.00**	**11**

4.8 On being asked whether the amount sanctioned has been utilized and the approved projects completed the Ministry have intimated that the loan is advanced on instalments based on the quantum of grant-in-aid. As per the provision given in terms and conditions, the loan instalment may be utilized within the stipulated time of three years. In this regard, they have furnished the following statement.

Statement approved schemes and loan released out of the grant in aid as on March 31, 2004.

Amount (Rupees in lakhs)

Sl.No.	States	Loan given	Refund without starting projects		Completed projects	Ongoing projects	Actual loan given
			No.	Amount			
1.	Andhra Pradesh	12	4	8.00	8	-	129.50
2.	Bihar	9	1	1.50	5	3 (upheld)	38.59
3.	Delhi	3	3	5.50	-	-	-
4.	Gujarat	2	-	-	-	2	56.00
5.	Karnataka	*43	3	10.63	24	15	1169.99
6.	Kerala	9	2	13.00	3	4	204.65
7.	Maharashtra	5	1	2.00	3	1	181.00
8.	Madhya Pradesh	1	-	-	-	1	47.32
9.	Manipur	1	-	-	-	1	31.30
10.	Orissa	6	-	-	5	11(upheld)	182.20
11.	Punjab	2	-	-	1	1	89.08
12.	Rajasthan	3	-	-	3	-	84.02
13.	Tamil Nadu	16	1	5.00	14	1	221.03
14.	Uttar Pradesh	2	1	1	1	-	86.00

4.9 On being asked whether all the States/UTs have conducted the fresh survey to have the authentic data of Wakf properties in the country, the Ministry have informed that no State/UT except the State of Himachal Pradesh has completed the survey to have the authentic data of Wakf property in the country, but the State Governments/UT Administrations are conducting the survey. They have also furnished the following data:

S.No.	Name of State/UT	Status position of Survey
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Survey of most of the districts has been completed and the report is under preparation for publication in the Gazette.
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	No Wakf properties.
3.	Assam	Survey is in progress.
4.	Bihar	Survey Commissioner appointed but survey work has not been completed.
5.	Jharkhand	Survey commissioner appointed but survey not started.
6.	Chattisgarh	Survey has not yet been started.
7.	Goa	Survey Commissioner has been reappointed but survey has not been conducted.
8.	Gujarat	Survey is in progress.
9.	Haryana	Survey commissioner appointed but survey work has not yet been started.
10.	Himachal Pradesh	Survey completed.
11.	Karnataka	Survey work in 11 Districts is completed and 14474 Wakfs have been surveyed out of 17833 Wakfs.
12.	Kerala	Survey completed and the report forwarded to Kerala Wakf Board which has recommended for fresh survey./
13.	Madhya Pradesh	Survey Report has been published in State Gazette except of Bhopal District. Notification for resurvey of 13 districts has been issued on 25.12.2004.
14.	Maharashtra	District wise Gazette Notification of Wakf properties has been published as per Wakf Act, 1995.
15.	Manipur	Survey of Wakf properties lastly carried out in 1992-93. Now the State Government has appointed Survey Commissioner, Additional & Assistant Commissioners under the Wakf Act, 1995 to start survey of Wakf properties of the State again.
16.	Meghalaya	Survey is in progress.
17.	Mizoram	No Wakf Board as there is negligible Wakf Properties.
18.	Nagaland	No Wakf Properties.
19.	Orissa	Survey is in process.
20.	Punjab	Last survey report notified in 1970-71. Survey work could not be taken up in Punjab State.
21.	Rajasthan	Survey is at the stage of completion
22.	Sikkim	There is negligible Muslim community and Wakf properties in the state.
23.	Tamil Nadu	Survey is in progress.
24.	Tripura	Survey work is in progress.
25.	Uttranchal	Survey was completed from 1976 to 1988 of the joint Uttar Pradesh
26.	Uttar Pradesh	Survey of Wakf properties in Uttar Pradesh has been done from 1976-88. Fresh survey under the Wakf Act, 1995 is in process.
27.	West Bengal	Survey is in progress.
28.	Andaman & Nicobar	Action is being initiated to conduct survey of Wakf properties.

29.	Chandigarh	Survey Commissioner appointed but survey has not been completed
30.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	Preliminary and final survey of Wakf properties under the Wakf Act, 1995 has been carried out but notification of said properties are yet to be issued.
31.	Daman & Diu	No information received.
32.	Delhi	Govt. of NCT of Delhi has already appointed a survey commissioner. Survey of 1274 out of 1933 Wakf properties has been completed.
33.	Lakshadweep	Survey Commissioner appointed on 02.07.1997. The survey report is awaited.
34.	Pondicherry	Last survey was done under Wakf act, 1954. All properties have been resurveyed. Some more properties have been referred to Survey Commissioner by the local Wakf Board which are being surveyed.
35.	Chandigarh	Survey Commissioner appointed but survey has not been completed

4.10 On being asked about the amount that lies outstanding and is to be recovered from the State Wakf Boards, the Ministry have informed that the total outstanding amount is Rs. 8.05 crore is as per the following statement.

Statewise amount due as on 31.3.2004

S.No.	Name of State	Amount due
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4815980
2.	Bihar	2277140
3.	Karnataka	35681842
4.	Kerala	6826940
5.	Madhya Pradesh	5080328
6.	Maharashtra	912064
7.	Manipur	120000
8.	Orissa	15592107
9.	Tamil Nadu	5814326
10.	Uttar Pradesh	3392000
		80512637

4.11 On being enquired about the number of Wakf properties encroached during the last three year the Ministry have furnished the following data :

Number of Wakf properties encroached in the last three years

S. No.	Name of State/UT	No. of Wakf properties encroached
1.	Assam	63
2.	Andhra Pradesh	3967
3.	Bihar	48
4.	Chattisgarh	2
5.	Haryana	765
6.	Karnataka	179
7.	Kerala	50

8.	Madhya Pradesh	1026
9.	Maharashtra	1103
10.	Meghalaya	5
11.	Orissa	17
12.	Punjab	385
13.	Rajasthan	1292
14.	Tamil Nadu	952
15.	UP	83
16.	West Bengal	83
17.	Andaman & Nicobar	8

4.12 The Ministry have informed that information regarding restoration of the Wakf properties from illegal occupants during the last three year is not available.

4.13 During the course of evidence, the Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment stated that its is the responsibility of the caretaker of the Wakf property to ensure that no encroachment takes place on it. Further, she stated that the Central Wakf Act has a procedure by virtue of which the encroachment can be removed. The responsibility of dealing with encroachment lies with the Wakf Board and the caretakers appointed by it and it is not the responsibility of the Government to ensure the same. However, the Ministry is aware of this problem and is concerned about it. In this regard, the first ever meeting of all the Chairpersons of the Wakf Boards was convened, wherein the Ministry impressed upon them that they had to deal with the encroachments by taking the necessary steps to remove the same.

4.14 The Committee note with concern that the Central Wakf Council had extended loan for 114 projects to the State Wakf Boards but only 67 projects have been completed so far. The Committee further note that this is one of the non-plan schemes of the Ministry where projects are directly funded by the Central Government for construction or re-construction of commercially viable wakf properties. The Committee understand the significance of these schemes and that without proper development of wakf properties, the Wakf Boards would not become a viable entity and continue to be a liability on the State Governments in one way or the other. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommend that concerted efforts should be made to execute these schemes as per

schedule and in case of default, all out efforts should be made to recover the funds from such Wakf Boards early.

4.15 The Committee note that the survey of wakf properties is an important pre-requisite to enable the Wakf Boards to exercise power, control and supervision over the individual wakf properties. From the information furnished by the Ministry, the Committee observe that survey has been completed in respect of Himachal Pradesh and survey report is awaited in cases of Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Lakshadweep. Some of the States have not yet started the survey and in some cases the survey work of wakf properties is very slow. The Committee feel that unless the Government have an authentic data of wakf properties, they will not be able to chalk out a proper plan for their development. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the State Governments be persuaded to complete survey work of urban wakf properties expeditiously and the progress achieved in this regard may be communicated to the Committee.

4.16 The Committee are constrained to note that out of 10,556 wakf properties which are under illegal possession/encroachment, during the last three years, the Ministry have no information regarding the restoration of these wakf properties from illegal occupants. The Committee view the situation very seriously and recommend that an effective mechanism should be evolved to check

encroachment of wakf properties. The Committee also recommend that all the wakf properties which have been illegally encroached, transferred, mortgaged, leased or sold should re retrieved by taking legal action against their occupants.

CHAPTER - V

DISABILITY DIVISION

5.1 The Committee have been informed that on the request of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) had conducted a nation wide survey on disabled persons in their 58th round during the period July-December, 2002. According to the survey estimates, the number of disabled persons in the country was 18.49 million during July to December 2002 and they formed about 1.8 per cent of the total estimated population. It may be mentioned that the survey conducted in 2002 by the NSSO had included all the seven categories of disabilities mentioned in the Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995 whereas the 1991 survey of NSSO did not include hearing & speech disability for children below five years and mental disability.

(a) General: Issue of Disability Certificates

5.2 During the course of evidence, the Committee pointed out that it is very difficult for a disabled person to get a Certificate and suggest that Disability Certificate should be given at the time of completion of their schooling along with the School Leaving Certificate. The Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment thereupon stated as under:-

> "As regards the issuance of disability certificates in the schools, I feel it is a very good suggestion. We will take it up."

5.3 The Committee are concerned to note that in order to get disability Certificates, disabled persons have to approach Government hospitals but in many cases, doctors are charging exorbitant amounts for issuing the Certificates. In order to obviate the difficulties faced by disabled persons, the Committee feel that the procedure for issuing 'disability certificates' should be simplified and no cost should be involved for obtaining the Certificate. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry should evolve guidelines to ensure that disability certificates are issued to the disabled students at the time of completion of their schooling along with their School Leaving Certificate or as and when required.

Major Head:2235
Sub Head : 01.08.31
Head No.: 08

(b) National Institute for the Multiple Handicapped

5.4 An allocation of Rs. 1.00 crore has been made for the Institute during 2004-05. No funds have been released during 2004-05 upto 31.12.2004 due to non-setting up of the Institute. The Allocation for 2005-06 is Rs. 6.50 crore.

5.5 During the course of evidence, the Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment apprised the Committee that a proposal to set up a National Institute for Multiple Disabilities at Chennai has been cleared by the CCEA.

5.6 The Committee note that the Ministry have provided an allocation of Rs. 1 crore for setting up the "National institute for the Multiple Handicapped" during the year 2004-05. However, no funds have been released upto 31 December, 2004 due to non-setting up of the Institute. The Committee further note that the proposal to set up the National Institute for Multiple Disabilities at Chennai has now been cleared by the CCEA. Keeping in view the fact that setting up of the Institute has already been delayed, the Committee urge the Ministry to make all out efforts so that the National Institute is set up and becomes operational at the earliest for providing rehabilitation services to the people with multiple disabilities under one roof. The Committee desire that Regional Institutes for Multiple Disabilities be set up in other parts of the country also.

Major Head : 2235
Sub Head: 02
Head No.: 10.02.31

(c) SCHEME OF ASSISTANCE TO DISABLED PERSONS FOR PURCHASE/FITTING OF AIDS AND APPLIANCES

5.7 The main objective of the Scheme is to assist the needy physically handicapped person with durable, modern and standard aids and appliances, which can promote their physical, social and physical, social and psychological rehabilitation. The scheme has been revised and its scope has been enlarged. This also includes medical and surgical correction and intervention, which is essential prior to fitment of aids and appliances. Under the revised scheme, the aids and appliances costing between Rs. 50 and Rs. 6,000/- will be given to the disabled persons free of cost whose monthly income is up to Rs. 5,000/- and 50% of the cost to those having an income between Rs. 5001/- and Rs. 8,000/ per month.

5.8 When enquired whether the amount charged from the disabled persons for various types of artificial limbs is within the reach of beneficiaries, it has been informed that no amount is charged from disabled persons in case his monthly income is below Rs. 5,000. In case the monthly income is between Rs. 5001 to Rs. 8000, 50 per cent of the amount is met by ALIMCO or any other implementing agency under ADIP Scheme of Government of India. It may also be clarified that under the ADIP Scheme, assistive devices costing upto Rs. 6000 are given. A proposal for increasing the income eligibility ceilings under ADIP Scheme is awaiting approval of CCEA.

5.9 The Committee note that in case of disabled persons whose monthly income is below Rs. 5,000, no amount is charged for the costs of aids and appliances whereas 50 per cent of the amount is met by ALIMCO or any other implementing agency under ADIP Scheme of the Government of India. The Committee further note that a proposal for increasing the income eligibility ceilings under ADIP Scheme is awaiting approval of CCEA. Considering that the cost of living has increased considerably, the Committee desire that

the proposal for increasing the income eligibility ceilings be cleared at the earliest so that the amount charged from the disabled persons for various aids and appliances remain within their reach.

CHAPTER –VI

SOCIAL DEFENCE AND CHILD WELFARE DIVISION

MAJOR HEAD: 2235
SUB HEAD : 01
HEAD NO. : 01.01.31

SCHEME FOR PREVENTION OF ALOCOHOLISM AND SUBSTANCE (DRUGS) ABUSE

6.1 The Committee have been informed that the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is the nodal Ministry for the welfare and educational aspects of drug abuse prevention. Recognizing substance abuse and alcoholism as a problem, the Ministry has adopted multipronged strategy for providing whole range of services including awareness generation, identification, treatment and rehabilitation of addicts through the Voluntary Organisations. The broad objective of the scheme is to create awareness and to educate the community, identification, motivational counselling, treatment and rehabilitation of its addicts leading to their social reintegration and to promote community participation and public cooperation for drug demand reduction. The scheme is implemented through registered Societies/Trusts/Companies or the Organisations/institutions by providing financial assistance to the extent of 90% of the total approved expenditure and which for the North Eastern States and J&K is 95%.

6.2 The Committee enquired whether it is fact that number of drug addicts has increased in the country wherein they have been informed that there is no authenticated report to indicate the increase/decrease of addiction cases, as no timeline data for benchmarking is available. However, the Ministry have furnished the following statements indicating State-wise number of drug abuse cases registered during the year 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 (upto September 2004).

S. No.	States/UTs	2002-03	2003-04 *	2004-05$
1.	Andhra Pradesh	11915	4143	3087
2.	Assam	1055	1862	923
3.	Bihar	14702	7746	5372
4.	Chattisgarh	0	338	172
5.	Goa	380	187	387
6.	Gujarat	21017	17525	4678
7.	Haryana	41238	24279	3069
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1038	1054	229
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	426	57	175

10.	Jharkhand	1578	106	0
11.	Karnataka	3430	4516	1840
12.	Kerala	14707	12097	7054
13.	Madhya Pradesh	9733	10905	748
14.	Maharashtra	23676	13758	6121
15.	Manipur	1853	3385	2201
16.	Meghalaya	88	37	614
17.	Mizoram	1628	1554	1039
18.	Nagaland	852	1441	1353
19.	Orissa	20747	9550	3561
20.	Punjab	11279	11519	4429
21.	Rajasthan	6295	3040	1967
22.	Sikkim	359	233	129
23.	Tamil Nadu	14122	9089	2328
24.	Tripura	3791	1925	360
25.	Uttaranchal	487	452	723
26.	Uttar Pradesh	35790	28775	13055
27.	West Bengal	10701	8545	2374
28.	Chandigarh	649	3705	240
29.	Delhi	6433	12342	1876
30.	Pondicherry	1908	0	0
		261877	**194165**	**70104**

6.3 The Committee asked whether the Ministry has conducted any survey to find out the main reasons for increase in the number of drug addicts in the country, the Ministry have informed that the Government of India in collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime conducted the "National Survey on the Extent, Pattern and Trends of Drug Abuse in India." Although 40,697 males within the age-group of 12-60 years were interviewed and information on various aspects of drug abuse was obtained. The survey only brings out the prevalence of drug abuse in the country and gives an indication as to the reasons for the same. The reasons appeared to be: -

(i) Economic stresses
(ii) Peer pressure both in academic institutions and work-places.
(iii) Perceived upward mobility
(iv) Lack of knowledge regarding the harmful effects of experimentations.

6.4 The Ministry have also informed that a core group, comprising of experts and representatives from diverse institutions, was constituted by the Ministry to consider the Reports of the evaluation studies and the experiences from implementation of the Scheme during the Ninth Plan and it suggested revision in the Scheme of Prevention for Alcoholism and Substance (Drugs) Abuse. The Ministry is in the process of revising the Scheme on the basis of the recommendation of the core group. The EFC memo for this purpose has already been prepared and comment of the concerned Ministries/ Departments have been received.

6.5 The Committee note with deep regret that though the scheme for prevention of alcoholism and Substance (Drugs) abuse has been going on for years, yet the Ministry have no authentic data to show whether the number of drug addiction cases in the country are increasing or decreasing. The Ministry have, however, furnished a statement showing the number of drug abuse cases registered during the year 2002-03 to September 2004. The Committee fail to understand the rationale behind the two contradictory statements of the Ministry and desire that a nation wide survey be conducted to collect authentic data of alcoholics and drug addicts in the country so that the impact of the Scheme could be evaluated and comprehensive action plan formulated for its eradication and also for treatment and subsequent rehabilitation of drug addicts.

6.6 The Committee are pleased to be apprised of the fact that the Government of India in collaboration with the United Nations Office on drugs and Crime conducted the 'National Survey on the extent, Pattern and Trends of Drug Abuse in India. The Committee are alarmed at the outcome of this study as it hints that this malaise is afflicting the younger generation of our society due to peer pressure, economic stress and the lack of knowledge of the ill-effects of intoxicants. In view of the perceived susceptibility of the younger generation to alcoholism and substance abuse, the Committee desire that the Ministry would take urgent steps to revise the existing Scheme of Prevention for Alcoholism and Substance/Drugs abuse, as proposed at the earliest to ensure that through counselling and proper awareness generation our youth are able to have a clear picture of the dangers of such intoxicants and thus stay

away from it. In this regard, the cooperation of the Ministries of Health and Family Welfare and Human Resources Development may also be sought.

NEW DELHI;
19 April, 2005
29 Chaitra, 1927 (Saka)

SMT. SUMITRA MAHAJAN,
Chairperson,
Standing Committee on
Social Justice and Empowerment.

ANNEXURE I

MINUTES OF THE SIXTEENTH SITTING ON THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT HELD ON 31ST MARCH, 2005.

The Committee met from 11.00 hrs. to 12.50 hrs. in Committee Room 'B', Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Smt. Sumitra Mahajan - Chairperson

MEMBERS

LOK SABHA

2. Shri Ashok Argal
3. Smt. Susmita Bauri
4. Shri Mahaveer Bhagora
5. Shri Eknath M. Gaikwad
6. Shri Sanat Kumar Mandal
7. Shri Rupchand Murmu
8. Shri T. Madhusudan Reddy
9. Shri Daroga Prasad Saroj
10. Dr.R. Senthil

RAJYA SABHA

11. Smt. Jamana Devi Barupal
12. Shri Silvius Condpan
13. Shri Dharam Pal Sabharwal
14. Shri Tarlochan Singh

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri R.K. Saxena - Deputy Secretary
2. Bhupesh Kumar - Under Secretary

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

1.	Smt. Sarita Prasad	-	Secretary (SJ&E)
2.	Dr. Sundeep Khanna	-	Additional Secretary
3.	Shri P.N. Murthy	-	JS (SCD)
4.	Smt. Swapna Ray	-	JS (SD & Admn.)
5.	Smt. Jayati Chandra	-	JS (DD & Media)
6.	Dr. G. Prasanna Kumar	-	JS (M&BC)
7.	Shri Mrutyunjay Sahoo	-	JS & FA
8.	Shri Haseeb Ahmed	-	Director (SCD)
9.	Shri R.S. Vundru	-	Director (SCD)
10.	Shri J.S. Kochar	-	Director (SD)
11.	Shri Ashish Kumar	-	Director

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members, Secretary and other officials of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and asked them to brief the Members on various schemes/programmes undertaken by the Ministry in terms of allocations made and expenditure incurred thereon and the targets achieved during the financial year 2004-05 and budget provisions for 2005-06. She pointed out that the Ministry could incur only 59.25% of the total budgetary allocation of Rs. 1492 crore for the year 2004-05 upto December, 2004. This had resulted in the allocations of the Ministry being reduced to Rs 1350 crore at the RE stage. She expressed the hope that the Ministry would take necessary steps to utilize the allocated funds fully henceforth.

3. She enquired about the measures proposed to be taken by the Ministry to encourage the State Governments/UTs/NGOs to furnish the Utilisation Certificates on time and also utilisation of funds earmarked under Special Central Assistance to Special Component Plan for the benefit of the Scheduled Castes

4. The Members then raised queries on important topics like (a) General Performance of the Ministry, (b) Special Central Assistance to Special Component Plan for Scheduled Castes, (c) Pre Matric Scholarship Scheme for SC students, (d) Post Matric Scholarship Scheme for SC students, (e) Upgradation of merit of SC students, (f) National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation, (g) Post Matric Scholarships to OBC Students, (h) Employment of the Handicapped, etc.

5. The Secretary and other officials of the Ministry replied to the queries raised by the Members. Hon'ble Chairperson directed the Secretary to send written replies to the queries of the Members on which ready information was not available with them during the evidence.

6. Hon'ble Chairperson thanked the Secretary and other officials for giving valuable information to the Committee on the subject in a candid manner.

A verbatim record of the proceedings has been kept.

The Committee then adjourned.

ANNEXURE II

MINUTES OF THE SEVENTEENTH SITTING ON THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT HELD ON 19TH APRIL, 2005.

The Committee met from 15.00 hrs. to 17.00 hrs. in Committee Room 'D', Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Smt. Sumitra Mahajan - Chairperson

MEMBERS

LOK SABHA

1. Shri M. Appadurai
2. Smt. Susmita Bauri
3. Shri Mahaveer Bhagora
4. Shri Eknath M.Gaikwad
5. Shri Sanat Kumar Mandal
6. Shri Rupchand Murmu
7. Shri Rameshwar Oraon
8. Shri Madhusudan Reddy
9. Shri Daroga Prasad Saroj
10. Dr. R. Senthil
11. Smt. Pratibha Singh
12. Shri Lalit Mohan Suklabaidya
13. Smt. Usha Verma

RAJYA SABHA

14. Smt. Jamana Devi Barupal
15. Shri Silvius Condpan
16. Shri Dharam Pal Sabharwal
17. Shri Ram Narayan Sahu
18. Smt. Savita Sharda
19. Shri Tarlochan Singh

SECRETARIAT

1. Dr. (Smt.) P.K. Sandhu - Joint Secretary
2. Shri R.K. Saxena - Deputy Secretary
3. Shri Bhupesh Kumar - Under Secretary

2. At the outset, the Hon'ble Chairperson welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee. Thereafter, the Committee took up the 7th Report on Demands for Grants relating to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment for the year 2005-06 and adopted the same with the following amendments –

Page No.10	After para No.2.16	add	New Para No.2.17
Page No.34	Para 4.3	for	'and distributing pamphlets in English, Hindi and other regional languages giving details of the Schemes'
		read	'by distributing pamphlets and Displaying hoardings at different public places, in English, Hindi and other regional languages giving details of the Schemes meant for them at Panchayat level'
Page No.40	Para No.5.3	for	'free of cost'
		read	'as and when required'.

3. XX XX XX XX XX

4. The Committee authorized the Chairperson to finalise the Reports and present the same to the Parliament on their behalf.

The Committee then adjourned.

APPENDIX

STATEMENT OF RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS

S.No.	Para No.	Recommendation/Observations
1	2	3
1	2.12	The Committee are constrained to note that this year too the budgetary allocation of the Ministry for the year 2004-05 has been pruned at RE stage from Rs. 1492 crore to Rs 1350 crore, a cut of Rs 142/- crore, and the actual expenditure incurred during the year was to the tune of Rs 1223.81 crore. The main reason attributed by the Ministry is non-receipt of utilisation certificates as well as fresh proposals from the States in time. It is also stated that the Ministry usually get utilisation certificates and fresh proposals in the last quarter of the year. However, the Committee have found that as a result of efforts made by them during the year utilization certificates of previous years had been obtained from State Governments/UTs and the Ministry was expected to utilize the funds allocated to them during the year. The Committee is of the opinion that it is financial prudence to incur the allocated expenditure in such a manner that it is evenly distributed and fully utilized during a financial year. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommend that the Ministry should organize periodic meetings with the representatives of all the States Governments/UT Administrations and impress upon them to submit the proposals in the beginning of the year and also furnish utilization certificates in time so that the allocated funds could be fully utilized and reduction in their allocation at RE stage be avoided. The Committee is of the firm opinion that timely submission of proposals and release of funds for the various welfare schemes of the Ministry would help in a big way to the down-trodden and vulnerable sections of the society and also in effective implementation of the schemes of the Ministry.
2	2.13	The Committee note that the budgetary allocation of the Ministry for the year 2005-06 is Rs 1533.70 crore, an enhancement of only Rs 41.70 crore as compared to the allocation of Rs 1492 crore for the year 2004-05. Considering the increasing number of persons in disadvantaged and the marginalized sections of the society such as Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, OBCs, minorities and persons with disabilities and also induction of new schemes by the Ministry the increased hike in outlay is negligible. Therefore, to fulfil the mandate of the Ministry of working towards the upliftment of the marginalized sections of our society, as well their integration with mainstream society the Committee strongly recommend that the Ministry should impress upon the Planning Commission to ensure a quantum hike in Budget Outlay for the year 2005-06.

3	2.14	The Committee are pleased to be apprised of the initiative taken by the Government with regards to reservation of jobs in the private sector for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The Committee are of the opinion that this would go a long way in enabling the enterprising youth from this section of the society to uplift themselves economically.
4	2.15	The Committee are pleased to note that consequent to the efforts of the Ministry, the Five Schemes which the Planning Commission was ready to transfer to the States, the Ministry have been able to retain all but one. The reasons cited by the Planning Commission for transferring these Schemes to the State Governments were that these Schemes are implemented by the State Governments and the budgetary allocations are not very large for these Schemes. The Committee are also aware that some of the States/UTs even find it difficult to provide even their matching share for the Schemes, and are not able to furnish their utilization certificates on time. In order to ensure that these Schemes remain under the purview of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, the Committee strongly recommend that the Ministry not only ensure that adequate budgetary allocations are made for these Schemes, but also State Governments /UT Administrations be impressed upon to furnish their utilization Certificates as well as fresh proposals on time for the effective implementation of these Schemes, which are pivotal for the upliftment of marginalized sections of our society.
5	2.16	The Committee note that majority of the Schemes by the Ministry are Centrally sponsored Schemes and hence implementation lies with the State Governments. The Committee are, however, of the opinion that the Ministry is accountable for the funds disbursed by them in order to ensure that they are utilized properly for the purpose for which they are allotted. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry should set-up a Central Monitoring cell to oversee the progress of implementation of its Schemes. The Committee further recommend that a three-tier monitoring mechanism at Village level, District level and State level should be evolved involving the local administration, District Administration and State Governments.
6	2.17	The Committee find that the Planning Commission provides budgetary allocation to the Ministry who allocate funds either in the form of Grants-in-aid or loans to various States/Union Territories for implementation of various welfare schemes formulated for the upliftment of targeted sections of our Society i.e. the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, OBCs, minorities, disabled persons, children in need of care, victims of drug abuse etc. However, it has been observed that the welfare schemes are not properly implemented and funds allocated to the States for implementation of these schemes

are not fully utilized by them. The main reasons attributed for not implementing these schemes and low utilization of funds are non-receipt of adequate number of proposals from the States in time, delay in completion of projects, non-receipt of utilization certificates from the channelising agencies/NGOs etc. Also some States do not provide their matching share which results in delay in releasing subsequent installments. It is also stated that the implementation of centrally sponsored schemes is the responsibility of State Governments. However, it is found that the State Governments are unable to fulfill their commitment to the desired extent due to financial constraints. The Committee feel that neither the concerned Ministry nor the State Governments are serious enough as it lacks effective mechanism to monitor and evaluate the proper implementation of the schemes in States/UTs which results in not achieving the desired results of upliftment of the disadvantageous sections of the society. The Committee express their deep anguish at this state of affairs. Keeping in view the mandate of the Ministry for the upliftment of SC/STs, minorities, etc. the Committee desire that the Ministry should impress upon the Planning Commission to take a pro-active role in this regard. The Planning Commission may convene meeting of Chief Ministers of all the States to take stock of implementation of the schemes before finalizing the annual plans and allocating funds and impress upon them to implement the Centrally Sponsored Welfare Schemes in their States effectively. The Committee also desire that the Planning Commission should pursuade the State Governments to ensure optimum utilization of funds, timely submission of new proposals and effective implementation and monitoring of all welfare schemes in their respective States so that the benefits of the schemes could reach the disadvantaged and marginalised sections of our society.

Further, the Committee recommend that whenever any Board or Corporation submits schemes through their respective States and get the sanction of the Central Government, the amount so sanctioned should be placed with the respective Board or Corporation as against their Schemes for utilization. The Ministry and the Planning Commission should also ensure that funds that are allocated for different schemes of the States are utilized for their respective schemes and not diverted.

7	3.12	**The Committee expresses its serious concern that some States are not following the Guidelines laid down by the Ministry with regard to allocating funds under SCP in proportion to their scheduled castes population considering fact that 25% of the Budget allocation under SCA is made to States on the basis this criteria. Instead of 25% of the Budget allocation under Special**

		Central Assistance on the basis of funds under Special Component Plan. The State outlay under SCP is only 11.01% and 12.68% during the years 2002-03 and 2003-04 which is much below the average Scheduled Caste population in the country. The Ministry have stated that States get proportionate allocation of SCA based on their SCP allocation as per the SC population in there States and if they do not follow the guidelines their share gets reduced proportionately. Keeping in view the welfare of the targeted people, the Committee strongly recommend that the Ministry should impress upon all the 27 States/UTs availing SCA to SCP funds to make allocation under their SCP in proportion to their SC population and get their share of SCA funds on time.
8	3.13	The Committee note with concern that inspite of implementation of welfare schemes for the Scheduled Castes for more than five decades the deduction in the incidence of poverty among Scheduled Casts particularly in urban areas, is much less as compared to general population. Therefore, the Committee are of the view that the government should rise to meet its commitment of upliftment of the disadvantaged SC population and allocate more funds for the schemes formulated for their welfare and persuade the State Governments also to allocate more funds out of their total plan outlay to the State Component Plan and ensure eradication of poverty among them.
9	3.14	The Committee note that even after two decades of operation of this scheme, only 16 Ministries/Departments, out of the 30 have formulated Special Component Plan for SCs whereas 14 Ministries/Departments have not yet formulated SCP for SCs. The Committee strongly recommend that the remaining Ministries/Departments, grouped under category-III which are service-oriented and whose activities are of divisible nature, should be persuaded by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment for formulating not only the Special Component Plan, but also ensuring its effective implementation and monitoring. The Committee desire that the Planning Commission be apprised of this situation to ensure compliance of the same by the remaining Ministries/Departments.
10	3.15	The Committee note that the allocation of SCA to SCP amount to nearly 44% of funds allocated to the Scheduled Castes Division. In the year 2004-05 the SCA funds released by the Ministry was Rs. 23226.12 lakh and the utilization till 31.12.2004 was only Rs 12669.09 lakh, which in percentage is only 55% an abysmally low figure of utilization. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommend that the Government should impress upon the States/UTs, availing SCA funds, to furnish utilization certificates on time to ensure timely release of the second

		installment of SCA funds and to utilize them fully to ensure effective implementation of this Scheme.
11	3.27	The Committee observe that the people engaged in unclean occupations are grossly marginalized section of our society and the most disadvantaged among the under privileged. Education being the most powerful equipment in upliftment of the marginalized people, the significance of 'pre-matric scholarship scheme' increases manifold as it plays a pivotal role in shaping the destiny of the children whose parents are engaged in unclean occupation traditionally. The Committee note with concern that during the last three years the Budget Estimates under this scheme have been consecutively reduced at Revised Estimate stage. In 2002-03 and 2004-05 an expenditure of Rs. 5.13 crore out of Rs. 12.50 crore and Rs. 7.64 crore out of Rs. 10.00 crore (BE Rs 16.00 crore) respectively was incurred. The Committee also note with dismay that during 2004-05 there was insufficient demand for funds from the States/UTs compelling the Ministry to recommend reducing the outlay at RE state to avoid of surrender of funds at the fag end of the year. The Committee, therefore, recommend that keeping in view the significant role this scheme play in upliftment of the most disadvantaged section of our society, the Ministry should strongly plead their case before the Planning Commission for higher allocation of funds for effective implementation of the scheme. The Committee also desire that the Ministry should impress upon the State Governments/UTs, who have equal commitment for their upliftment, to effectively implement the scheme, ensure full utilization of the funds and submit proposals at the begining of the year so that the desired results could be achieved.
12	3.28	The Committee further note with concern that the Planning Commission has proposed to transfer the scheme to States/UTs w.e.f. the financial year 2005-06. The Committee fully endorse the views of the Ministry that it is apprehended that the financial constraints with the State Governments would adversely affect the implementation of the scheme and the State Finance Departments may not be able to obtain additional resources, when required, since many States have not been providing matching share resulting in reduction in central matching share also. Therefore, the Committee strongly desire that the scheme should not be transferred to the States.
13	3.29	The Committee note with regret that the Government has not taken up in 2001 the census of the people engaged in unclean jobs. In the absence of such vital data the details regarding the literacy rate of these people and the details of the students who availed benefits under the scheme are not available with the Government. The Committee is also surprised to note that the Ministry is not maintaining even the success/drop out rate under the scheme. The committee feel that the Government is not

		serious to its commitment towards the upliftment of this marginalized section. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommend the Ministry to vigorously pursue with the competent authority to conduct a survey of this section of the society and also to take the necessary steps for obtaining the data of their literacy rate and the drop out rate so that adequate funds may be allocated for their educational upliftment through pre-matric scholarships scheme and realistic plans may be formulated for their over all advancement.
14	3.37	The Committee express its concern to note that the Scheduled Caste students who are already financially not sound have to pay higher fee when they take admission in managerial course, professional course, engineering or medical course. Some colleges even charge fee as high as Rs. 25000/- to Rs. 50,000/- . The Committee find that with the present budget, the Ministry is not in a position to pay the fee of the payment seats or even management seat. They are managing only ten percent with their limited budget. However, the Committee note that the Government would be able to reimburse the fee component fully subject to an evaluation study. The Committee feel that in case the component part for admission of Scheduled Caste students in the professional courses under managerial quota is taken case of satisfactorily, will play a crucial and pivotal role in their socio-economic advancement. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommend that the budgetary allocations of the Ministry under the head Post Matric Scholarship Scheme should be substantially enhanced so that fees paid by scheduled Caste students for entry into professional courses, particularly under managerial seats, could be fully reimbursed to them after evaluation. The Committee also desire that an evaluation study should be conducted in this regard urgently. The Committee also feel that some guidelines should be formulated by the Government about the quantum of fee to be charged by the private colleges particularly for professional courses.
15	3.43	The Committee note with serious concern that the Government have not paid any heed to its recommendation contained in its I Report on Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (2004-05) wherein, the committee had expressed their extreme disappointment and voiced their strong concern over the fact that the Ministry had not been able to finalize the proposed modifications in this scheme for the last 2 yeas, whilst at the same time drastically reducing the allocation of funds for this scheme. The Committee note that during the years 2003-04 and 2004-05, actual expenditure incurred under the scheme is very low and budgetary allocation i.e. Rs. 0.01 crore for the year 2005-06 is a token one. This has resulted in the number of potential beneficiaries of this scheme going down drastically. The reasons attributed by the Ministry for low allocation of funds is that they received very few proposals from the States. The Committee also find that the existing scheme of

upgradation of Merit of SC students is being replaced by the new scheme "Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Merit based scholarship and Assistance to students benefiting to Scheduled Castes for studying in reputed public schools/Premier Institutions. Keeping in mind the pivotal role played by such a scheme in shaping the destiny of the Scheduled Caste children, the Committee hope that the new scheme would be implemented soon and adequate budgetary allocations would be made for the scheme to ensure that remedial and special coaching for SC students are arranged to prepare them for competitive examinations for entry into professional courses. The Committee also desire that until the new scheme is made fully operational, the existing one will continue to operate for which adequate funds may be assured commensurate to the available potential eligible students. The Government should also pursue with the State Governments to submit adequate proposals. Also the scheme may be evaluated at the earliest.

16 4.3 The Committee are perturbed to note that the budgetary allocation for the minorities who constitute 18% of the total population was 77.29 crore out of which expenditure of only Rs. 44.5 crore was incurred. For the year 2005-06 budgetary allocation is Rs. 56.15 crore. The Committee feel that the Government is not serious towards its commitment for the welfare of minorities as the present allocation is woefully inadequate. Keeping in view the economic and educational backwardness of minorities, the Committee urge the Ministry to take up the matter with the Planning Commision for enhancement in budgetary allocation for the minority division. The Committee feel that the minority community is not fully aware of the various schemes formulated by the Government for their welfare and upliftment. The Committee, therefore, desire that the Government should take initiative for generating awareness among the minorities and distribute pamphlets in English, Hindi and Urdu and other regional languages giving details of the schemes meant for them.

17 4.14 The Committee note with concern that the Central Wakf Council had extended loan for 114 projects to the State Wakf Boards but only 67 projects have been completed so far. In respect of 16 cases first installment was released but the work could not be started within stipulated time resulting in recovery of the entire loan amount. The Committee further note that this is one of the non-plan schemes of the Ministry where projects are directly funded by the Central Government for construction or re-construction of commercially viable wakf properties. The Committee understand the significance of these schemes and that without proper development of wakf properties, the Wakf Boards would not become a viable entity and continue to be a liability on the State Governments in one way or the other. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommend that concerted efforts should be made to execute these schemes as per

		schedule and in case of default, all out efforts should be made to recover the funds from such Wakf Boards early.
18	4.15	The Committee note that the survey of wakf properties is an important pre-requisite to enable the Wakf Boards to exercise power, control and supervision over the individual wakf properties. From the information furnished by the Ministry the Committee observe that survey has been completed in respect of Himachal Pradesh and survey report is awaited in cases of Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Lakshadweep. Some of the States have not yet started the survey and in some cases the survey work of wakf properties is very slow. The Committee feel that unless the Government have an authentic data of wakf properties, they will not be able to chalk out a proper plan for their development. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the State Governments be persuaded to complete survey work of urban wakf properties expeditiously and the progress achieved in this regard may be communicated to the Committee.
19	4.16	The Committee are constrained to note that out of 10,556 wakf properties which are under illegal possession/encroachment, during the last three years, the Ministry have no information regarding the restoration of these wakf properties from illegal occupants. The Committee view the situation very seriously and recommend that an effective mechanism should be evolved to check encroachment of wakf properties. The Committee also recommend that all the wakf properties which have been illegally encroached, transferred, mortgaged, leased or sold should re retrieved by taking legal action against their occupants.
20	5.3	The Committee are concerned to note that in order to get disability Certificates, disabled persons have to approach Government hospitals but in many cases, doctors are charging exorbitant amounts for issuing the Certificates. In order to obviate the difficulties faced by disabled persons, the Committee feel that the procedure for issuing 'disability certificates' should be simplified and no cost should be involved for obtaining the Certificate. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry should evolve guidelines to ensure that disabled certificates are issued to the disabled students at the time of completion of their schooling along with their School Leaving Certificate free of cost.
21	5.6	The Committee note that the Ministry have provided an allocation of Rs. 1 crore for setting up the "National institute for the Multiple Handicapped" during the year 2004-05. However, no funds have been released upto 31 December, 2004 due to non-setting up of the Institute. The Committee further note that

		the proposal to set up the National Institute for Multiple Disabilities at Chennai has now been cleared by the CCEA. Keeping in view the fact that setting up of the Institute has already been delayed, the Committee urge the Ministry to make all out efforts so that the National Institute is set up and becomes operational at the earliest for providing rehabilitation services to the people with multiple disabilities under one roof.
22	5.9	The Committee note that in case of disabled persons whose monthly income is below Rs. 5,000, no amount is charged for the costs of aids and appliances whereas 50 per cent of the amount is met by ALIMCO or any other implementing agency under ADIP Scheme of the Government of India. The Committee further note that a proposal for increasing the income eligibility ceilings under ADIP Scheme is awaiting approval of CCEA. Considering that disabled persons are amongst the most physically affected sections of our society, the Committee desire that the proposal for increasing the income eligibility ceilings be cleared at the earliest so that the amount charged from the disabled persons for various aids and appliances remain in their reach.
23	6.5	The Committee note with deep regret that though the scheme for prevention of alcoholism and Substance (Drugs) abuse has been going on for years, yet the Ministry have no authentic data to show whether the number of drug addiction cases in the country are increasing or decreasing. The Ministry have, however, furnished a statement showing the number of drug abuse cases registered during the year 2002-03 to September 2004. The Committee fail to understand the rationale behind the two contradictory statements of the Ministry and desire that a nation wide survey be conducted to collect authentic data of alcoholics and drug abuses in the country so that the impact of the Scheme could be evaluated and comprehensive action plan formulated for its eradication and also for treatment and subsequent rehabilitation of drug addicts.
24	6.6	The Committee are pleased to be apprised of the fact that the Government of India in collaboration with the United Nations Office on drugs and Crime conducted the 'National Survey on the extent, Pattern and Trends of Drug Abuse in India. The Committee are alarmed at the outcome of this study as it hints this malaise is afflicting the younger generation of our society due to peer pressure, economic stress and the lack of knowledge of the disasters of experimentation with intoxicants. In view of the perceived susceptibility of the younger generation to alcoholism and substance abuse, the Committee hope that the Ministry would take urgent steps to revise the existing Scheme of Prevention for Alcoholism and Substance/Drugs abuse, as proposed at the earliest to ensure that through counselling and proper awareness generation our youth are able to have a clear picture of the dangers of such intoxicants

and thus stay clear from it. In this regard, the cooperation of the Ministries of Health and Family Welfare and Human Resources Development Ministry may also be sought.